# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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P8 It's time for India-Panama to draw closer ties

P9 India-NZ closer to finalising FTA: Goyal

P12 Keerthy Suresh, Antony Pepe join forces for 'Thottam'



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## ED attaches ₹11.14 cr assets of ex-cricketers Raina, Dhawan

**NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 11.14 crore of former cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan as part of a money-laundering probe linked to the operations of an alleged illegal betting site, official sources said on Thursday. A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach an immovable property of Dhawan worth Rs 4.5 crore and a mutual fund of Raina worth Rs 6.64 crore in the case against the online betting site named 1xBet, the sources said.

## India needs world-class banks; in talks with RBI, lenders: FM

**MUMBAI**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the country needs big and world-class banks, and discussions are on with the Reserve Bank and lenders in this regard. Addressing the 12th SBI Banking and Economics Conclave 2025, Sitharaman asked lenders to deepen and widen credit flow to the industry, exuding confidence that GST rate cut-driven demand would unleash a virtuous investment cycle. Stressing that India needs a lot of big and world-class banks, she said the "government is looking at this and work has already commenced. We are discussing with the RBI.

## Guj HC grants 6-month bail to self-styled godman Asaram

**AHMEDABAD**

The Gujarat High Court on Thursday granted six-month bail to self-styled godman Asaram in a 2013 rape case in which he is serving a life sentence. The division bench of Justices Ilesh Vora and RT Vachhani granted Asaram (84) temporary bail to facilitate his medical treatment, nearly a week after the Rajasthan High Court passed a similar order. The court stated orally that it was granting him bail for six months on the same ground on which he was granted bail by the Rajasthan High Court. The court noted that since the Jodhpur High Court had already allowed bail on medical grounds, Gujarat "cannot take a different view."

## Bhajanlal, Vasundhara Raje hold joint roadshow

**JAIPUR**

The ruling BJP on Thursday put up a show of strength ahead of the bypoll in Anta assembly constituency, with Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and former chief minister Vasundhara Raje holding a joint roadshow in Mangrol town of Baran district in support of party candidate Morpal Suman. The 2.5-kilometre roadshow, which began from Subhash Chowk and concluded at Siswali Tiraha, drew large crowds, with people showering flower petals on the convoy. More than 50 welcome gates were erected along the route. Sharma, Raje and other leaders greeted people from a open-roofed campaign vehicle.

# Bihar Phase 1 Voting Sees Over 60% Turnout, Polling Peaceful

### Voting ran from 7 am to 6 pm; Begusarai highest, Sheikhpura lowest after revision

**PATNA**

Polling for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections across 121 of 243 constituencies saw 64.46%% voter turnout on Thursday, according to the Election Commission. Barring a few minor skirmishes, voting remained largely peaceful across the state.

The phase witnessed participation from political heavyweights including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, former CMs Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi, Mahagatbandhan CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav, Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha, and popular teacher-turned-YouTuber Khan Sir. Notably, Nitish and Rabri are members of the Legislative Council, while Lalu is barred from contesting due to his fodder scam conviction.

Voting began at 7 am and ended at 6 pm, with Begusarai recording the highest turnout and Sheikhpura the lowest. Bihar is the first state holding elections after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which reduced registered voters from 7.9 crore to 7.4 crore. Some voters reported their names missing from the updated rolls.

Reports from Lakhisarai said Deputy CM Vijay Sinha's convoy was attacked by unidentified individuals, though the RJD dismissed the allegation, claiming it was staged for electoral gain.

Phase 1 has sealed the fate of several key candidates, including Tejashwi Yadav (Raghopur), Tej Pratap Yadav (Mahua), Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary (Tarapur) and Vijay Sinha (Lakhisarai), folk singer Maithili Thakur (Alinagar), and politicians Anant Singh (Mokama) and Osama Shahabuddin (Raghunathpur).

The second and final phase of polling will be held on November 11, with counting of votes for all 243 seats scheduled for November 14.

## YOUTH CONG PROTEST

Karnataka State Youth Congress members protested at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, condemning the negligence of the Central Government and the Election Commission in the theft of 25 lakh votes in the state of Haryana. ➤ CH PHOTO

## Cabinet Holds Marathon Meeting on Sugarcane Farmers' Demands

**BENGALURU**

**State Cabinet resolves to seek Prime Minister's intervention on FRP and sugar export policy.**

The Karnataka Cabinet held a marathon three-hour meeting on Thursday to discuss the ongoing sugarcane farmers' protests across Belagavi and Bagalkote districts. Following the deliberations, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the government would write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an urgent appointment to discuss the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) issue and related sugar export policies.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the FRP rates are fixed by the BJP-led Central Government and accused the opposition of misleading farmers with false promises. He noted that the state government's role is limited to ensuring timely payments, proper weighing, and fair rates to farmers.

Siddaramaiah questioned why Union Minister Prahlad Joshi did not attend the farmers' protest meeting and criticised the Centre's "discriminatory" ethanol policy, which allocated only 47 crore litres for purchase from Karnataka's 270-crore-litre capacity.

The Cabinet decided to hold two crucial meetings on Friday — one with sugar factory owners at 11 a.m. and another with farmers' leaders at 1 p.m. at Vidhana Soudha. "We will listen to both sides and take a farmer-friendly decision within our jurisdiction," the CM said.

He urged farmers not to fall for political propaganda and reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting their interests through dialogue and concrete action.

Thousands of farmers from Belagavi, Bagalkot, and surrounding districts are demanding a fair price of ₹3,500 per tonne.

## I am a disciplined soldier of the party; I will never cross its line: DCM

**NEW DELHI**

"There will be no revolution in November or December — not even in January or February. If there's any revolution at all, it will happen in 2028 when the Congress returns to power," said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday while speaking to the media.

When asked about the ongoing discussions regarding a so-called "November revolution" and the dates of November 22 and 26, he said, "Someone has just written that randomly. The party has entrusted us with several responsibilities, including the Bihar elections, and we are focused on that. There will be no revolution apart from this."

Responding to questions about whether he planned to meet AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Shivakumar clarified, "I'm not meeting anyone. No one has discussed cabinet expansion with me. I have no scheduled meetings with any leaders. Discussions are being held on party organization matters. We even held meetings last night and again today regarding electoral malpractice. The talk about cabinet expansion or leadership change is entirely media speculation. Have I said anything about a leadership change? Has the CM said anything? We will follow whatever the party decides.

*The main petition before the single judge is listed for hearing on 17 Nov*

## HC rejects Karnataka's plea against stay order on RSS' public events

**BENGALURU**

**No revolution in November or December; any real change will come in 2028 when Congress returns to power: Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar.**

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday dismissed the State government's appeal against a single judge's interim order staying a GO that mandated private organisations to obtain permission before holding any activities in government-owned spaces.

A division bench of Justices SG Pandit and Geetha KB directed the government to approach the single judge to seek vacation of the stay.

The single judge had issued an interim order on 28 October.

According to the GO, any programme or procession held in violation of the government order will be treated as "unlawful assembly" under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) Act.

While the government order does not specifically name RSS, the provisions of the order are said to be aimed at impacting the activities of the Hindu right wing organisation, including its route marches.

During the hearing, the division bench questioned whether gatherings of 10 or more individuals could automatically be treated as unlawful.

"If people wish to walk together, can that be stopped?" the Bench asked, suggesting that the State seek clarification from the single judge instead of filing an appeal.

Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty, representing the government, maintained that the order targeted organised events such as rallies and processions, not informal meet-ups.

## Belagavi Sugarcane Farmers Hold Massive Bike Rally for ₹3,500 MSP

**BELAGAVI**

The protest by sugarcane farmers demanding a higher minimum support price (MSP) entered its eighth day on Thursday, with hundreds of growers taking out a massive bike rally in Gokak. Farmers from Gokak town and nearby villages gathered at Gurlapura Cross in Moodalagi taluk before setting off on their 15-kilometre rally. Joined by several youngsters, the farmers rode through local routes shouting slogans and pressing their demand for an MSP of Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane. With the harvest season underway and the state government yet to announce a clear MSP for sugarcane, growers say they are left with no option but to intensify their protest. Over the past week, the agitation has been drawing wider participation, with members of various organisations, women, and youth joining the farmers in solidarity.

## Churachandpur Shut in Protest against Killing of UKNA Cadres

**CHURACHANDPUR**

The Kuki-majority town of Churachandpur remained shut on Thursday in protest against the killing of four United Kuki National Army (UKNA) cadres by security forces on Tuesday. The shutdown began at noon as the funerals of the deceased, aged between 17 and 19, were held in the presence of family and community members.

Several Kuki organisations, including the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), alleged that the youths were killed while sleeping and did not use arms against the forces. They condemned the security operation as "inhumane," highlighting that armed persons from the Meitei community were not targeted similarly.

The Army and Assam Rifles stated the four cadres were killed during an encounter at Khanpi village, around 80 km west of Churachandpur, and claimed several automatic weapons were recovered. The UKNA is not part of the Suspension of Operations agreement signed by other Kuki insurgent groups.

**KALMAEGI STORM ALERT**

## *Typhoon Kalmaegi Slams Vietnam after Devastating Philippines*

**VIETNAM**

Typhoon Kalmaegi made landfall in Vietnam on Thursday, following a deadly path through the Philippines where it claimed at least 114 lives and caused widespread flooding. In the Philippines, tens of thousands were evacuated, particularly from central areas including Cebu, where streets were submerged and vehicles swept away. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr declared a state of emergency as the typhoon left a trail of destruction.

In Vietnam, Kalmaegi brought winds of up to 92 mph (149 km/h) and is expected to generate waves as high as 8 meters (26 feet) along the South China Sea. Hundreds of localities across seven cities and provinces are at risk of flooding and landslides in the coming hours. Several provinces have already reported damage, including uprooted trees, smashed windows, and roofs torn off homes.

Vietnamese authorities have mobilized over 260,000 soldiers and personnel, supported by more than 6,700 vehicles and six aircraft, to assist in emergency relief. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh emphasized that no one should be left without food, water, or essential supplies.

Seaside communities, including tourist hotspots Hue and Hoi An, are particularly vulnerable due to rising riverbanks and coastal surges. Officials have warned of potential capsizing of boats and damage to fishing farms, with comparisons drawn to the 2017 Typhoon Damrey as a cautionary precedent.

Thailand is also preparing for the storm's impact, with authorities issuing warnings of flash floods, landslides, and river overflows as the typhoon moves across Southeast Asia.

QUICK READ

## Krishi Mela to Be Held at GKVK Campus from Nov 13–16

**BENGALURU**

The annual Krishi Mela will be held at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) campus in Bengaluru from November 13 to 16. This year's event, themed "Samruddhi Krishi Viksit Bharat – Land, Water, Crop," will showcase innovative agricultural practices, machinery, and livestock. Farmers and agricultural enthusiasts can explore five new crop varieties, including sunflower, fodder maize, and turmeric. The four-day fair aims to promote sustainable farming and empower the farming community with the latest advancements in agriculture.

## Bike Rider Narrowly Escapes Death in JP Nagar Mishap

**BENGALURU**

A bike rider had a miraculous escape after nearly colliding with a BMTC bus near the Deve Gowda petrol pump in JP Nagar. Fortunately, the rider escaped without injuries. According to initial reports, the accident was caused by overspeeding, traffic rule violations, and negligence. In an attempt to avoid hitting the bus, the rider lost control and rammed into a car parked at the signal. The entire incident, showing the rider's reckless driving, was captured on a nearby vehicle's dash camera.

## Polar Bear Restaurant Fined ₹10,000 for Littering on Footpath

**BENGALURU**

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has fined Polar Bear Restaurant in HRBR Layout ₹10,000 for dumping garbage on the footpath and violating cleanliness regulations. During a city hygiene inspection, BNCC officials found the restaurant staff disposing of waste on the pavement, a clear breach of anti-littering rules. Officials said the action serves as a warning to other establishments. The corporation urged citizens and businesses to maintain cleanliness and support efforts to build a cleaner, healthier Bengaluru.

# State to Launch Gruhalakshmi Society and Akka Force

### Loans up to ₹3 lakh at low interest rates for Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka government will soon establish the Gruhalakshmi Multipurpose Cooperative Society to support beneficiaries of the Gruhalakshmi scheme across the state. The society will be expanded to all districts within three months, said Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar on Wednesday.

Speaking at a state-level preparatory meeting held at the Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Auditorium and Training Centre, the minister said the initiative is part of the upcoming celebrations for the Anganwadi Golden Jubilee, the launch of the Akka Force, and the inauguration of the Gruhalakshmi Bank on November 19 at Bengaluru's Kanteerava Stadium. Hebbalkar said that the world's largest Gruhalakshmi Scheme has been successfully implemented, with funds already collected from around 2,000 beneficiaries. She called on officials to ensure the new society and bank gain similar success. "Loans of up to ₹3 lakh will be provided to beneficiaries at low interest rates through the Gruhalakshmi Society. The entire process will be transparent, and payments will be collected digitally through PhonePe," she said. Emphasising that the department's core mission is women's empowerment, Hebbalkar added, "My dream is to make the Women and Child Development Department the number one department in Karnataka." The minister also announced the launch of Akka Force—a state-wide initiative to ensure women's safety. In collaboration with the police, Home Guards, and NCC students, the Akka Force will patrol public spaces such as schools, colleges, parks, and shopping malls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

They will also conduct awareness sessions on safety and provide assistance to women and students in distress.

**AKKA FORCE TO TACKLE DEEP FAKES, RAISE AWARENESS**

Minister Hebbalkar noted that the growing threat of deep fakes is endangering girls and women. The Akka Force will take proactive measures to curb such misuse and will conduct a three-month door-to-door awareness campaign to educate people on online safety, women's protection, and digital responsibility.

# K'taka Tops GST Growth Charts With 10% Surge during Dasara Festivities

**BENGALURU**

### State records ₹14,395 crore in September collections amid consumer push for billing

Karnataka has emerged as the top-performing state in GST revenue growth during the Dasara festival season, recording a 10 percent rise in September collections. The impressive surge reflects strong consumer participation, driven by greater awareness about demanding bills and benefiting from the recent GST rate rationalisation that reduced prices on several goods.

According to official data, the state collected ₹14,395 crore in September compared to ₹13,080 crore in the same month last year. This includes all components—Central GST, Integrated GST, inter-state tax, and cess. After deductions, Karnataka's net share stood at ₹7,065 crore. The state's growth far outpaced the national average of 2 percent, even as India recorded a total GST collection of ₹1.96 lakh crore.

Among the top five states, Karnataka's performance was unmatched. Maharashtra recorded 3 percent growth with ₹32,025 crore, Gujarat achieved 6 percent growth with ₹12,113 crore, Tamil Nadu posted 4 percent with ₹15,588 crore, and Uttar Pradesh saw a modest 2 percent increase with ₹9,806 crore. Only Telangana matched Karnataka's growth rate at 10 percent, but with a lower base of ₹5,726 crore, it was not ranked among the top five contributors.

Officials attributed Karnataka's growth to several factors—an early wave of festive demand following the Centre's announcement of GST rate cuts, effective monitoring by the Commercial Taxes Department, and improved tax compliance through technology-based enforcement.

Consumers increasingly demanding bills for purchases also contributed significantly to higher returns. The strong collection reinforces Karnataka's position as one of the country's most economically progressive states, highlighting both fiscal discipline and robust consumption trends during the festive season.

# HC Dismisses Plea for Compassionate Job by KSRTC Driver's Adopted Son

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a writ appeal filed by the adopted son of a deceased KSRTC bus driver, seeking a compassionate appointment, citing policy exclusion and an inordinate delay in filing the application.

A division bench comprising Justices D.K. Singh and K. Rajesh Rai observed that compassionate appointment is not a vested right but a welfare measure designed to help a deceased employee's family overcome financial distress. "It is meant to provide immediate relief and cannot be claimed at any time by the dependents," the bench noted.

The appellant, Vinayaka Madenahalli from Hirekerur in Haveri district, had sought appointment after the death of his father, KSRTC driver Chandrappa Madenahalli, who passed away in February 2014. However, Vinayaka applied nearly five years later, on February 13, 2019. The corporation rejected his application in May 2019, as well as two subsequent ones filed in August 2021.

He then moved the High Court, but a single bench dismissed his plea on July 10, 2024. In his appeal, Vinayaka claimed to have submitted an earlier application in April 2014. He also produced a civil court decree dated January 24, 2019, declaring him as the adopted son of the deceased — a decree obtained through an uncontested suit.

The division bench found that the adoption suit appeared to be filed primarily to support his claim for a government job. As per KSRTC policy, an application for compassionate appointment must be submitted within one year of the employee's death, and adopted children are not eligible.

Citing the Supreme Court's ruling in Canara Bank vs Ajith Kumar, the bench concluded that the appeal lacked merit and dismissed it.

# HC Seeks Govt's Clarification on Cremation on Private Land

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka High Court has sought the government's clarification on whether a body can be cremated or buried on private land without the owner's permission, observing that such actions could lead to serious legal and social complications.

The direction came while hearing a petition filed by H. Gopalagowda of Turandahalli in Bangarpet, who alleged that his daughter-in-law's body had been buried near his house without his consent. The petition sought a direction to shift the grave to another location.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, who heard the case, remarked that permitting burial on private property without proper authorization could set a dangerous precedent. "If such acts are allowed, and the government supports them, the situation will worsen," the judge observed orally. The court has scheduled the next hearing for November 24 and directed the petitioner to furnish a copy of the petition to the respondents.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel argued that the Sub-Divisional Officer's decision to reject their plea violated Section 95 of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act.

# Minister Conducts Inspection at Kempegowda Bus Stand

**BENGALURU**

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy paid a surprise visit to the Kempegowda Bus Stand following complaints from passengers about poor parking conditions and water stagnation during rains that hampered vehicle movement.

Responding promptly, the Minister had earlier instructed officials to level the parking area and take measures to ensure smooth bus operations. During his inspection, he reviewed the progress of these works and directed officials to complete the first phase quickly, with follow-up action planned at two other rain-affected locations.

Minister Reddy inspected all terminals of the bus stand, emphasizing the need for adequate transport facilities, clean surroundings, and the optimal use of commercial spaces. He also stressed the importance of maintaining basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity, and toilets for both passengers and operating staff. The Minister later visited the BMTC Bus Stand and instructed that the building be cleaned and plants growing on its surface be removed.Senior officials, including the Director (Staff and Awareness), Director (Information Technology), and Kempegowda Bus Station Division officers, accompanied the Minister during the inspection and reviewed the rest house facilities and staff arrangements.

## Commissioner's Direct Response to Citizens' Complaints

**BENGALURU**

To address public grievances swiftly, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has launched a weekly "Phone-in Programme," enabling citizens to directly convey their complaints to him.

The next session will be held on Friday, November 7, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM, during which the Commissioner will personally receive calls and ensure immediate follow-up action. Citizens can raise issues such as road potholes, faulty streetlights, garbage collection, overgrown trees, mosquito control, stray dog menace, park maintenance, footpath encroachments, unauthorized banners, e-khata grievances, and drain cleaning. All complaints will be registered in the Sahaaya 2.0 portal and automatically forwarded to the concerned officials for resolution. Once registered, complainants will receive an SMS confirmation with a complaint number and the contact details of the responsible officer.

**CONTACT**

Mobile/WhatsApp
**9480685705**
Landline
**080-22975936**
**080-23636671**
Citizens can also submit grievances via **Sahaaya Mobile App.**

# Priyank Kharge Accuses RSS of Running a 'Factory of Lies'

**BENGALURU**

Minister Priyank Kharge has launched a sharp attack on the RSS and BJP, accusing them of "running a factory of lies" in their branches under the patronage of Keshav Kripa. Speaking in response to MP V. Kageri's remarks in the Vidhana Soudha that Vande Mataram should have been India's national anthem, Kharge said that the RSS "does not know its own history."

"BJP leaders and volunteers should read their own publication, the Organizer newspaper. If they do, they will realise who the real traitors are.

The RSS has never respected the Constitution, the national flag, or the national anthem.

They have created a false history," Kharge said.

Clarifying a common misconception, Kharge noted that Rabindranath Tagore did not write Jana Gana Mana for the British, as alleged by some, but for the nation — and that Tagore himself had said so twice. "But BJP doesn't read or understand facts; they believe whatever comes on WhatsApp or Facebook," he mocked.

He further said that the RSS and BJP had distorted historical facts and misled people by spreading misinformation.

"The questions we ask are based on their own writings. If you read what RSS leaders said in their newspaper, you will be ashamed," Kharge said.

He added that both Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana command deep respect among citizens, unlike the RSS, which "once called the Tricolour inauspicious and preferred Manusmriti over the Constitution."

"Before preaching nationalism, BJP should first read RSS's real history," Kharge said, concluding his scathing remarks.

# Notorious Burglar Aslam Pasha held; Used to Offer Stolen Money to God

**BENGALURU**

The Vidyaranyapura police have arrested Aslam Pasha, a notorious burglar whose serial house thefts across five districts had long kept the police on edge. The arrest revealed an unusual pattern — Pasha would offer a portion of his stolen money to God after each crime. Pasha was wanted in over 150 burglary cases across Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Shivamogga, Haveri, and Davangere districts. Police recovered ₹22.5 lakh in cash and gold ornaments worth ₹1 crore from him. Known for his daring methods, Pasha would identify posh houses during the day and strike late at night.

He often snatched chains from sleeping women through open windows or broke windowpanes to unlock main doors. Houses with locked gates, uncollected milk packets, or newspapers outside were his prime targets.

# 100th Rangamale Drama Series to Feature 3-Day Fest

**BENGALURU**

To celebrate the 100th performance of the Rangamale Drama Series, the Janapadaru Cultural Forum of Hoskote taluk has organised a three-day drama festival at Janapadaru Rangamadira, Nimbekayipura, from November 7 to 9.

The festival will be inaugurated by Minister Shivaraj S Thangadgi (Kannada and Culture, Backward Classes Welfare). Former Minister Aravind Limbavali, MLA of Mahadevapura, will preside. On the occasion, Subbalakshmi, a Guinness World Record holder in saxophone performance, will be felicitated.

The opening day will feature the release and staging of the play "Gnanadegula" written by Siddeshwara.

On November 8, Bagepalli Krishnamurthy's "Gibran Uvacha" will be launched by Munithimmappa, N. Lokesh, and Vasanth Kumar, followed by Kotaganahalli Ramaiah's play "Sum Sumke", directed by Ramakrishna Belthur.

The valedictory ceremony on November 9 will be presided over by MLA Manjula Aravind Limbavali, with Pavithra Ravikumar and K. Manjunath as guests.

The evening will conclude with a cultural programme titled "Kala Vaividyavam", presented by members of Janapadaru, said Papanna, President of the Janapadaru Cultural Forum.

**DHARMASTHALA CASE DELAY EXPLAINED**

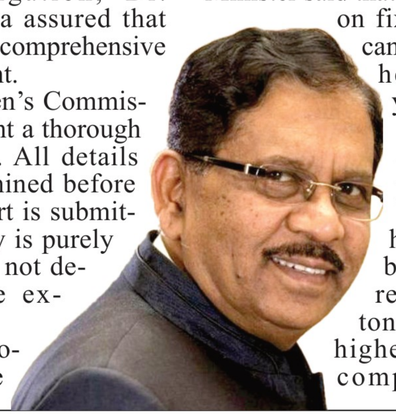
# *SIT Report Deferred Due to Technical Reasons: HM*

**BENGALURU**

Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara clarified that the acceptance of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report on the Dharmasthala case has been postponed due to technical reasons. "The report submission has been delayed for a few days as certain technical aspects need to be resolved," he said.

Responding to the dissatisfaction expressed by the State Women's Commission regarding the progress of the SIT investigation, Dr. Parameshwara assured that the process is comprehensive and transparent.

"The Women's Commission has sought a thorough investigation. All details must be examined before the final report is submitted. The delay is purely technical and not deliberate," he explained.



On the ongoing sugarcane growers' agitation, the Home Minister said that discussions on fixing sugarcane prices are held every year.

"Farmers demand prices similar to Maharashtra, but the sugar recovery per tonne there is higher. Ours is comparatively lower, which affects pricing," he pointed out. He added that all concerned ministers held talks on Wednesday, though no resolution was reached.

Emphasising restraint, Dr. Parameshwara instructed the police to handle farmers' protests peacefully. "We know what happened in Belagavi earlier when a farmer took poison.

We must avoid such incidents and resolve issues through dialogue," he said.

When asked about the party high command's instructions not to visit Delhi, Parameshwara remarked, "I don't know who will go. I will visit Delhi only if necessary.

There's not much work for our department there, but if there's any special grant or central assistance, I will go."

He also recalled his previous visit to Delhi, where he met the Union Home Minister to request the construction of 5,000 houses for police personnel, but said there had been no response yet.

QUICK READ

## Lamb gifted to State BJP Chief B. Y. Vijayendra

**BENGALURU**

State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra celebrated his birthday at his Dhavalagiri residence in Bengaluru with party workers, supporters, and well-wishers. On the occasion, his fans marked the celebration in a unique way by gifting him a lamb along with a blanket as a token of affection. Vijayendra, visibly delighted, fed milk to the lamb, symbolizing care and simplicity. Several party leaders and admirers extended greetings and wished him continued success in his political journey and personal life.

## Monthly Parade Today on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU**

The Monthly Parade of the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner will be held on November 7 at 8:00 a.m. at the City Armed Reserve Headquarters Parade Ground on Mysuru Road. In anticipation of Children's Day on November 14, around 75 children from orphanages including Navjeevan, Aadarane, and Dreams India Network will attend the parade as special guests. The initiative is jointly organized by the Bengaluru City Police and Parihara Foundation. Following the parade, an entertainment programme for the children will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Police Commissioner's Office premises.

## Anganwadi Workers Protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU**

Members of the Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Association staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Thursday, demanding gratuity benefits for retired Anganwadi workers. The protesters urged the state government to recognize their long years of service and provide social security measures, including pension and health benefits. They emphasized that thousands of Anganwadi workers, who have contributed significantly to child welfare and nutrition programmes, are left without financial support after retirement. The association vowed to continue its agitation until their demands are met.

# RMC Recommends Revising User Fees in Line with Inflation

### Committee suggests inflation-linked user charges, broader tax base, and efficient asset monetization

**BENGALURU**

The Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) has, in its final report, recommended rationalizing user charges in public services and establishing a mechanism to automatically revise these charges in line with inflation. The committee, formed in August 2024 to strengthen Karnataka's fiscal position and promote sustainable economic growth, submitted its comprehensive report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The report proposes a phased transition to a volumetric billing system, wherein charges are levied based on the extent of service usage. It also recommends creating a formula-based framework that allows for automatic inflation adjustments, ensuring the financial sustainability of public services.

To reduce the state's dependence on a few key revenue sources, the RMC has suggested tax reforms, including expansion of the tax base and better compliance mechanisms. For the Excise Department, it recommends introducing auction-based digital certificates to enhance transparency and efficiency.

The committee has also proposed several measures to tap into non-tax revenue potential—such as scientific asset valuation, expanding leases through public-private partnerships (PPPs), and monetizing urban land assets. Additionally, it advises establishing an Economic Policy Division within the Finance Department to enhance policy capacity, track non-tax revenue, and oversee asset monetization.

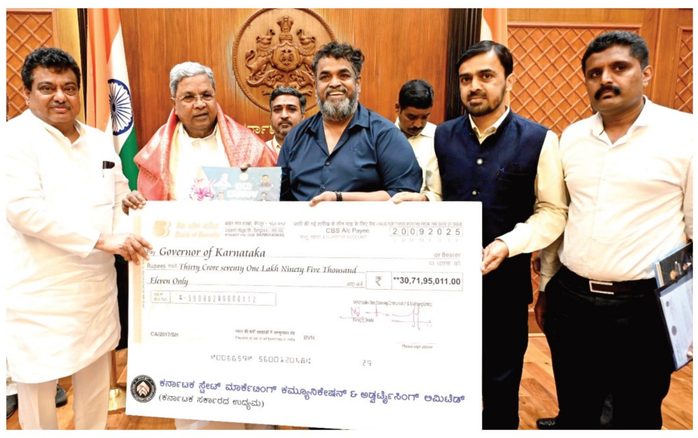
Karnataka, the report notes, continues to outperform many states in terms of economic growth. Own-tax revenue contributes between 60% and 70% of the state's total receipts, with commercial tax, excise, registration and stamp duty, and motor vehicle tax forming the major components. However, non-tax revenues remain low, signaling untapped opportunities in user fees, leasing, and government asset monetization.

> The committee's report highlighted the need to allocate adequate funds to growth-promoting sectors such as infrastructure, education, and health, while ensuring prudent expenditure management. It also emphasized that systematic reforms in revenue collection and efficient financial governance are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Karnataka.

The committee emphasized the importance of systematic property surveys and comprehensive data management to improve the valuation and utilization of state-owned assets. It also suggested that local bodies explore new revenue avenues through revision of guideline values and property taxes, which could significantly enhance municipal fiscal capacity.

# KSMCA DECLARES ₹34.13 CRORE DIVIDEND TO GOVERNMENT

**BENGALURU**



M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries & Infrastructure Development along with Satish Krishna Sail, Chairman, KSMCA and MLA, Karwar Assembly Constituency handing over the Dividend Cheque to Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister. Mohammed Ateequlla Shariff, Managing Director and Nandisha P.S. Deputy General Manager of the Company were present.

Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited (KSMCA), the state's sole government advertising agency, handed over a dividend of Rs. 34.13 crore to the Government on Thursday.

The dividend cheque was presented to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries & Infrastructure Development, along with KSMCA Chairman Satish Krishna Sail.

Managing Director Mohammed Ateequlla Shariff and Deputy General Manager Nandisha P.S. were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Patil praised the company's profitable growth but noted losses in the Excise Security Label business, urging the government to entrust it again.

Sail requested inclusion in digitalisation initiatives and timely payment for government advertisements to support the company's growth and profitability.

## Miscreants Steal Gold under Pretext of Marriage Invitation

**BENGALURU**

In a brazen daylight robbery in Neralur village, under Attibele Police Station jurisdiction in Anekal taluk, three miscreants tied up a homeowner and stole 200 grams of gold jewelry after visiting under the pretext of delivering a marriage invitation.

The incident took place at the residence of Nagaveni and Ravikumar, who live in Neralur. Ravikumar, an employee of a private company, was away at the time. The intruders, having noted that Nagaveni was alone, planned the robbery in advance. One of the women at the doorstep requested water, luring Nagaveni to the kitchen. At that moment, one of the men entered, tied her hands and feet, and threatened her with a knife.

The miscreants then accessed a chest of drawers using its key and made off with gold ornaments including a necklace, earrings, two neck chains, a ring, a long chain, eight silver anklets, and a saffron bowl, valued at approximately ₹15 lakh.

ASP Venkatesh Prasanna, DySP Mohan Kumar, and Circle Inspector Manjunath visited the site and conducted an inspection. A case has been registered at Attibele Police Station, and police have laid a trap to apprehend the culprits. Authorities have appealed to the public to report any suspicious activity that may help in locating the thieves. The incident has raised concerns about security in the area and the increasing use of deceitful tactics by criminals to target residents during daytime.

# Bengaluru Metro a Rail Entity, State Has No Jurisdiction: High Court

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is a "railway company" under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and therefore the central government is the "appropriate government" for matters of industrial disputes — the state government lacks jurisdiction to notify its services as a public utility. Justice Ananth Ramanath Hegde quashed the state notification dated July 7 2017 issued under the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act, 2013 and the BMRCL Employees (Conduct, Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2014.

The court held that even though the state and Centre each hold 50% shares in BMRCL, and the board includes both state ministers and secretaries, the "final administrative authority" rests with the central government.

It further restrained the state government from granting any exemption under Section 14 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 to BMRCL, emphasising that the central government industrial tribunal shall now proceed to adjudicate.

By declaring the state's notification under Section 2(n)(vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act invalid, the judgement cements that metro rail enterprises such as BMRCL fall under the Union list and federal regulatory control.

The verdict has major implications for labour law, service classification and the regulation of metro rail entities in India, clarifying power divisions between state and central authorities in the governance of mass transit infrastructure.

# Bidadi Plant Converts City Waste into Clean Power

**CH NEWS**
**BENGALURU**

**Plant processes 600 tonnes daily, aims to handle 500 tonnes of dry waste soon**

Around 200 tonnes of sorted dry waste are being sent daily to the Bidadi Waste-to-Energy Plant, said Kari Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). The project, jointly managed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), seeks to minimize landfill use and promote green power generation.

Constructed on 163 acres near Bidadi under the Design, Finance, Construct, Operate and Transfer (DFCO&T) model, the plant is capable of generating 11.5 megawatts of electricity per day. The ₹314.74-crore project cost is shared equally between GBA and KPCL. Currently, about 600 tonnes of waste, including plastic and refuse-derived fuel (RDF), are processed daily, with a goal of reaching 500 tonnes of dry household waste by the end of November. Gowda noted that improved waste segregation has reduced landfill-bound compactors from 390 to 340. Bengaluru generates around 6,000 tonnes of waste daily, nearly 35% of which is plastic. While recyclable materials are reused, low-grade plastics are directed to the Bidadi facility for power generation.

Since commencing operations in June 2024, the plant has processed 1.68 lakh tonnes of waste and produced 54.29 million units of electricity—enough to power approximately 25,000 homes daily.

KPCL Executive Engineer Satish Kumar highlighted that this is Karnataka's first waste-to-energy plant, emphasizing that it operates without causing air pollution and employs odor-control systems.

Energy Minister K.J. George lauded the project as a milestone in the state's drive toward eco-friendly energy solutions, adding that the ash generated from combustion is reused in road construction, further reinforcing its sustainability goals.

## KSRTC Honoured with the Svayam Accessibility Award 2025

**BENGALURU**

KSRTC has been awarded the prestigious Svayam Accessibility Award 2025 for its pioneering efforts in inclusive and accessible public transport in Mysuru. The recognition highlights KSRTC's leadership in implementing 'Dhwani Spandana', the OnBoard Bus Identification and Navigation System, a first-of-its-kind initiative.

The award was presented by Prashant Kumar Mittal, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Center (NIC), and Sminu Jindal, Founder-Chairperson, Svayam Foundation, to Sharan Basavaraj K.M., Divisional Controller, KSRTC Mandya Division, and Mrs. Sudharani R., Deputy Chief Systems Manager, KSRTC. Developed by the Raised Lines Foundation at IIT Delhi, the system has been installed in over 200 Mysuru city buses, helping visually impaired commuters identify buses and locate entry points safely via audio signals. More than 400 users have been trained, enhancing their independence, confidence, and safety.

The initiative succeeded through technical collaboration with GIZ under the SUM-ACA project, which promotes urban mobility and accessibility for all. Svayam – celebrating 25 years – honors institutions setting benchmarks in inclusive design and accessibility.

# India Manufacturing Show 2025 Inaugurated

**BENGALURU**

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi, Minister of State for MSME Shobha Karandlaje, and Member of Parliament Tejasvi Surya jointly inaugurated the 7th India Manufacturing Show (IMS) 2025 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) on Thursday.

The event, organized under the leadership of H.S.V. Krishna, Chairman of IMS, aims to showcase India's growing strength in manufacturing, innovation, and technology. The three-day exhibition brings together industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators from across the country and abroad to explore partnerships, promote Make-in-India initiatives, and encourage investment in sustainable manufacturing.

Exhibitors and visitors thronged the venue, engaging with cutting-edge technologies and industrial solutions on display.

AGARBATHI INDUSTRY GROWTH

# *Shobha Karandlaje Inaugurates AIAMA Expo 2025*

**BENGALURU**

Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated AIAMA Expo 2025, India's largest international conference and exhibition dedicated to the agarbathi (incense) industry, organized by the All India Agarbathi Manufacturers Association (AIAMA) at Tripuravasini, Palace Grounds.

The three-day event, themed 'Traditionally Modern', marks a new chapter in India's agarbathi sector. A key highlight of the inauguration was the launch of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for Indian agarbathis — a significant step that provides a recognized global quality mark for products made in India.

Speaking at the event, Shobha Karandlaje described the agarbathi industry as "a symbol of India's culture, spirituality, and craftsmanship." She said the introduction of BIS certification would enhance product quality, promote exports, and position India as a leading player in the global fragrance market. "This move will empower small and medium enterprises and ensure that Indian agarbathis meet international standards," she added.

Ambika Ramanjaneyulu, President of AIAMA and Managing Director of Ambika Group of Companies, said that AIAMA Expo 2025 celebrates 25 years of industry unity and innovation. "It's an opportunity for manufacturers, suppliers, and experts to collaborate, learn, and build a stronger global presence for Indian agarbathis," he said.

Arjun Ranga, Chairman of the AIAMA Expo 2025 Committee and Managing Director of Cycle Pure Agarbathi, said the expo reflects the industry's evolution by combining traditional artistry with modern entrepreneurship. He added that the event aims to inspire innovation, empower manufacturers, and strengthen India's position as a global fragrance hub.

Spread over 1,20,000 sq. ft, the expo will host seminars on job creation, raw material sourcing, fragrance research, packaging design, women's empowerment, export growth, and digital marketing.

Key sessions include talks by mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik on the role of fragrance in Indian spirituality and business coach Rajiv Talreja on scaling family-run enterprises. A special 'Nos Royale' perfume creation competition will also be held, showcasing India's creative potential in scent innovation.

## QUICK READ

### BJP Yuva Morcha donates cow on Vijayendra's birthday

**Udupi**

Marking BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra's 50th birthday, the Udupi District BJP Yuva Morcha donated a cow and calf to a poor farmer's family in Billadi, Brahmavar taluk. The donation was made to Girijabai, whose husband, Ganapa Naik, died in a tree-fall accident. The event, held near Geeta Mandir, included special prayers to Lord Krishna. Shri Sugunendra and Shri Sushrindra Tirtha Sripada blessed the act, calling cow donation sacred and beneficial for the nation. Yuva Morcha President Prithviraj Shetty said the gesture aimed to celebrate Vijayendra's birthday meaningfully by helping those in distress.

### Agniveer recruitment rally to begin in Ballari

**Chitradurga**

An Agniveer recruitment rally under the Agneepath scheme will be held at the District Stadium in Ballari from November 13 to 19. Candidates who qualified in the online Common Entrance Examination held between June 30 and July 10, 2025, are eligible to participate. They can check their results and rally details on the official website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. Authorities have urged eligible youth to attend the rally with proper documents and preparation. The event aims to recruit disciplined and skilled individuals to serve in the Indian Army through the Agneepath initiative.

### Deadline extended for state disability awards applications

**Chitradurga**

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens has extended the deadline for state award applications to November 10. The awards recognize institutions, special teachers, and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of persons with disabilities. Interested applicants can collect forms from the district office, fill them in Kannada, and submit two copies of the form and proposal to the department at the District Balabhavan premises near the stadium. Late submissions will not be accepted. For further details, candidates can contact 08194-235284, the department announced.

# Mock funeral of Minister Patil held as sugarcane protest grows

Farmers, supported by students, lawyers, and leaders, continue round-the-clock protests, shutting towns like Athani, Hukkeri, Sankeshwar, and Harogeri for three days

**BELAGAVI**

The ongoing protest by sugarcane farmers at Gurlapur Cross in Mudalagi taluk has entered its eighth day, growing more intense with each passing day. On Thursday, angry farmers held a mock funeral procession of Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil, symbolizing their frustration over the government's silence on their demand for Rs. 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane for the current crushing season.

Farmers, joined by students, lawyers, religious leaders, and several organizations, have continued their protest round the clock. For the last three days, towns like Athani, Hukkeri, Sankeshwar, and Harogeri have seen complete shutdowns, with public transport halted and shops closed.

At the protest site, farmers set tyres ablaze on major roads and marched with placards and sticks. Farmer leader Chunnappa Poojary warned, "We have given the government time till 8 p.m. to decide. If they fail, we will block the Bengaluru–Pune National Highway. We are not asking for Rs. 5,000—just a fair price of Rs. 3,500."

In Athani, farmers staged a half-naked demonstration to highlight their suffering. Leader Mahadev Madiwala declared that if the government continues to ignore their

plea, they would besiege the Suvarna Soudha during the upcoming winter session in Belagavi.

Expressing solidarity, Jagadguru Basava Jayamrutyunjaya Swamiji of the Panchamasali community urged the government to "stop being stubborn" and meet the farmers' demands immediately. "Farmers are not asking for luxury, only for justice. A ton of sugarcane earns factories Rs. 14,000 in profit. Is it wrong to give farmers Rs. 3,500?" he questioned.

Swamiji added that even former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai suggested a balanced solution—factories paying Rs. 3,300 and the government contributing Rs. 200 per tonne. "Only when farmers survive can factories thrive," he said, pledging full support to the movement.

The farmers vowed to continue their agitation until the government announces a fair and final decision.

# HC's last warning in Udupi elephant dispute

**UDUPI**

Karnataka High Court has granted a final opportunity to Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt to file its objections in the ongoing dispute over the ownership of the female elephant, Subhadra. The dispute is between Hirekal Math of Honnalli in Davanagere district and Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt, with the latter being directed to transfer Subhadra to Sri Krishna Mutt by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) on September 10, 2025.

The petition, filed by M.P.M. Channabasayya representing Hirekal Math, argues that the math has cared for Subhadra for 26 years. Despite her wounds not healing earlier, Subhadra was shifted to an elephant camp and later handed over to Hirekal Math. The PCCF's order to transfer her to Sri Krishna Mutt has been challenged by the petitioner.

During the hearing before Justice Suraj Govindaraj's single-judge bench, the petitioner's counsel highlighted that a six-member veterinary team examined Subhadra and confirmed her health. Sri Krishna Mutt's counsel requested additional time to file objections, which was granted by the court. The Karnataka High Court's decision sets the stage for a conclusive hearing in the dispute over Subhadra's ownership, with both parties expected to present their cases in detail.

The dispute between Hirekal Math of Honnalli in Davanagere district and Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt over elephant Subhadra is a matter of ownership and custody. According to the available information, Hirekal Math has cared for Subhadra for 26 years, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) has ordered her transfer to Sri Krishna Mutt, which is being challenged by Hirekal Math.

*Under the revised system, students will complete 12 short tests and 48 projects yearly, with averages determining internal marks for overall scores*

# SSLC exam overhaul marks step toward balanced education

**BENGALURU**

Education experts have hailed the Karnataka government's recent decision to consider internal assessment marks while determining the final results of SSLC (Class 10) examinations, calling it a progressive and student-friendly reform aimed at promoting balanced learning.

Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Vidyavachaspathi Santosh Bharathi Guruji said education should not be confined to textbook learning or exam-based scoring but should aim to draw out each student's hidden potential. "True education lies in recognizing individual differences and nurturing talent accordingly," he emphasized.

According to the revised system, internal evaluation will now include four short tests and eight project works per subject. Over the academic year, a student will take part in 12 short tests and 48 project activities. The average of these

will determine internal marks, which will contribute to the student's overall score.

Experts pointed out that most states in India, following CBSE and ICSE patterns, already consider internal marks, with a minimum of 33% required for passing. Karnataka's move to align with this system, they said, would relieve lakhs of students from unnecessary academic pressure and ensure that no student faces failure or emotional distress due to one final exam.

"This approach will not compromise academic quality but will, in fact, encourage holistic evaluation," said education expert Dr. H. S. Ganesh Bhat. The decision, they noted, reflects a more inclusive and compassionate vision for school education.

The press meet was attended by Dr. H. S. Ganesh Bhat, D. Shashikumar, CAMS General Secretary, B. K. Venkatesh, Principal of Anupama Vidyamandira, and Kannada Dindima Foundation members Naveen Hegde and Somashekar Karajol.

They collectively lauded the Education Minister for introducing a reform that balances fairness, quality, and empathy in student evaluation.

# MLC Seeks action as laterite block prices remain high

**MANGALURU**

MLC Dr. Manjunath Bhandary has submitted a memorandum to District Deputy Commissioner H.V. Darshan, asking the administration to control the high price of laterite stones used for building houses in Dakshina Kannada.

Although the government has reduced the royalty to ₹920 per 10 tonnes, quarry operators are still charging ₹50 to ₹55 per stone, pushing up construction costs. Contractors say this makes building an average 1,200 sq ft home nearly ₹3 lakh more expensive for families.

Dr. Bhandary has urged the Deputy Commissioner to call a meeting with quarry owners, builders and contractors to fix a fair and uniform price so that common people can afford house construction.

# Consumer panel orders car replacement or full refund

**UDUPI**

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered the manufacturer and dealer of a Toyota Innova car to either replace the defective vehicle or refund its full value to the customer, along with compensation and interest.

The case was filed by Shravan Kumar, a resident of Kachur in Brahmavar taluk, who purchased a Toyota Innova with a five-year warranty from United Toyota Private Limited, Udupi, on November 16, 2022. Within a month and after just 1,000 km, the right-side tires were damaged due to a manufacturing defect. Despite multiple complaints and services at 5,000 km and 10,000 km, the defect remained unresolved.

The dealership reportedly blamed the Bridgestone tires, sending them for inspection, but the tire company confirmed no defects. When legal notice failed to bring any response, Shravan Kumar approached the Udupi Consumer Commission seeking justice.

After a detailed inquiry, the Commission directed the manufacturer and seller to replace the defective vehicle with a new car of the same model, or alternatively, refund ₹32,08,952, the car's purchase value, with 9% annual interest from the date of purchase.

Additionally, they must pay ₹50,000 for mental distress and ₹10,000 as application fee within 45 days.

Advocates Gangadhar H.M. and Vipin Jattan represented the complainant. The order underscores consumer rights against defective vehicle sales and stresses the duty of carmakers and dealers to honor warranty obligations promptly.

# Mysuru's child nutrition centre lies neglected: Chairman Kosumbe

**MYSURU**

Karnataka State Child Rights Commission Chairman Shashidhar Kosumbe has strongly criticized the poor condition of the Malnourished Children Recovery Centre (MRC) at Cheluvamba Hospital in Mysuru, calling it a shameful reflection of official negligence.

During an inspection on Wednesday, Kosumbe expressed shock over the lack of facilities and management at the centre. "It is surprising that such poor conditions exist in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's home district. The officials here have completely failed to use the available resources properly," he said.

The Chairman revealed that while 91 severely malnourished children have been identified across Mysuru district, not one child has been admitted to the recovery centre. "All ten beds are lying empty, and there isn't even stock of basic food grains or pulses in the kitchen. This is unacceptable," he added.

Comparing Mysuru's centre to his home district, he remarked, "Even the Bidar MRC functions much better. I came with hope but left disappointed."

Kosumbe inspected the centre along with the District Health Officer (DHO) and senior hospital staff. He directed them to immediately take corrective steps and submit a detailed report within three days.

"The officials must bring all 91 malnourished children to the centre for treatment and nutrition rehabilitation," he said. "Their parents can stay with them and will receive ₹308 per day under the MGNREGA scheme until the children recover."

Condemning the indifference of officials, Kosumbe warned that if they fail to act, the Commission will recommend stern action to the State Government.

# Experts Warn Heat Waves Threaten Human Health

**MYSURU**

Heat waves and rising global temperatures are expected to cause more health problems in the coming years, warned Dr. Jon Samseth, President of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), Netherlands.

Speaking at the International Conference on Heat and Heatwave Trends and Their Health Implications in the Global South, organized by JSS Science and Technology University in Mysuru on Thursday, Dr. Samseth said that India, particularly Karnataka, is already witnessing alarming changes. "Mysuru, once known for its pleasant weather, now faces summer highs above 40°C," he noted.

He explained that increasing heat has led to water shortages, crop loss, vector-borne diseases, and even mental health stress. "Heat waves are no longer rare events—they are now constant threats to our environment, economy, and health systems," he added.

According to reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), heat waves are becoming more frequent, longer, and more intense, especially across South and Southeast Asia. Nearly five lakh people die every year worldwide due to heat-related illnesses. The elderly, children, outdoor laborers, and the urban poor are among the most vulnerable.

Dr. Samseth also warned that major cities such as Delhi, Karachi, and Dhaka are turning into "urban heat islands," reaching temperatures close to the limits of human survival.

Highlighting SCOPE's contributions, he said the organization works closely with policymakers by translating complex environmental data into practical strategies. Their workshops on issues like soil carbon management and climate risk in South Asia have shaped resilience plans and supported global environmental policy. He urged the conference to become a platform for collective action, stressing that scientific awareness must lead to building heat-resilient communities. "We must act with science and compassion to protect our future," he concluded.

Dr. C.G. Betsurmath inaugurated the event, with several national and international experts participating.

# Candidates get time to complete Anganwadi forms

**CHITRADURGA**

The Department of Women and Child Development in Chitradurga district has given candidates another chance to complete their incomplete Anganwadi job applications. Applicants who had submitted incomplete forms can now finish them online by November 13 on the official website https://karnemakaone.kar.nic.in/abcd/.

Under the Holalkere Taluk Child Development Project, a total of 65 applications were received for four Anganwadi worker posts and 45 applications for 45 assistant posts. Among them, 42 applications were found incomplete. Similarly, under the Hiriyur Taluk project, 77 applications for two worker posts and 56 for 53 assistant posts were incomplete. In Challakere Taluk, 62 out of 66 applications for two worker posts were incomplete.

Officials clarified that this opportunity is only for candidates who have already applied earlier—no new applications will be accepted. The process includes four stages:

The notification, issued on August 4, emphasizes that only complete applications with valid documents will be considered during the final selection process. Applicants are advised to complete their pending forms before the deadline and can visit their respective Child Development Scheme offices for further assistance or clarification.

**DIVINE CHARIOT ARRIVAL**

# *Businessman donates silver chariot worth ₹2 cr*

**SUBRAHMANYA**

A magnificent silver chariot worth ₹2 crore, donated by the family of Kurunji Dr. Renuka Prasad from Sulya, has reached the Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple. The grand chariot, about 18 feet long and crowned with a golden urn, was crafted under the guidance of Rajagopala Acharya and Lakshminarayana Acharya.

The chariot procession began on November 4, traveling through several towns and villages with great enthusiasm before arriving at Sullia on Tuesday. From there, it proceeded to Kukke Subrahmanya on November 5, where it

was warmly welcomed by temple priests and devotees with special pujas and homas.

Temple board president, Tantridhari pandits, and officials from the Muzrai Department took part in the ceremonial welcome. The official dedication ceremony of the chariot will take place on November 10, featuring special pujas, rituals, and religious programs.

The arrival celebration saw participation from the donor's family, chariot makers, staff and students of Sullia KVG Educational Institution, and hundreds of devotees.

Coinciding with this event, the Goota Puja of the renowned Champa Shashti Jatra Mahotsava began on Wednesday, the Kartik Purnima day. Led by priest Madhusudan Kalluraya, the rituals included traditional prayers, purification ceremonies, and peg installation on the chariots by the Malekudiya community.

These ceremonies mark the spiritual beginning of the Champa Shashti Fair, bringing together tradition, devotion, and community spirit in the holy town of Subrahmanya.

## QUICK READ

### Painter Falls from 100-Foot Tank, Dies in Holenarasipur

**Makavalli**

A tragic incident occurred in Makavalli village, Holenarasipur taluk, where a 31-year-old painter, Akash, died after falling from an overhead water tank over 100 feet high. According to reports, Akash was painting the tank while standing on an iron rod attached to the structure when it suddenly gave way, causing him to fall. Local police visited the spot and have begun an investigation into the accident, which occurred within the jurisdiction of the Holenarasipur Rural Police Station.

### Leopard Sighting at Antaragange Hills Sparks Panic

**Kolar**

Panic spread among residents after a leopard was spotted at Antaragange Hills in Kolar. According to locals, several leopards are known to inhabit the hilly stretches of Antaragange, Terahalli, and Arabikothanuru. The recent sighting, which occurred two days ago, has left villagers anxious and fearful. Following the incident, the Forest Department has issued an advisory urging residents of nearby villages to remain cautious and avoid venturing into forested areas. A video of the leopard, captured on a mobile phone, has since gone viral on social media, intensifying public concern.

### Bukkambudi Man Earns Fame for Eye Healing

**Molakalmuru**

A man from Bukkambudi village in Molakalmuru taluk has earned widespread recognition for his rare ability to swiftly remove dust or minute particles from people's eyes, offering immediate relief. Locals fondly refer to him as a "magician" for his gentle, pain-free traditional method. In areas prone to dust and wind, villagers from nearby regions frequently seek his help for quick treatment. His time-honoured technique, inherited through generations, continues to provide safe and natural relief to those facing sudden eye irritation.

# MLA Inspects Flooded Road and Addresses Public Grievances

## Residents raise concerns over road dust, poor power supply, and waterlogging

**SHIDLAGHATTA**

MLA B.N. Ravikumar visited Shidlaghatta to inspect the site of the recent robbery and later reviewed ongoing civic issues in nearby areas. During his visit, he assessed the condition of a flood-affected road that has made it difficult for farmers to access surrounding fields and gardens. Locals said the persistent waterlogging has severely hampered agricultural and dairy farming activities in the region.

The MLA observed that water flowing from Kodi was draining wastefully towards Andhra Pradesh and urged authorities to take measures to control the flow. Referring to a Prajavani newspaper report published on October 24, he instructed officials to explore constructing a culvert to block the water channel without disrupting local traffic and to later build a permanent bridge to prevent flooding.

Residents also complained that road development work underway from Sadali Cross to S. Devaganahalli has generated excessive dust, which is damaging nearby crops and gardens. Commuters too are facing difficulties due to the ongoing construction activities.

Mr. Ravikumar directed Public Works Department officials to instruct contractors to take preventive steps to reduce dust pollution and ensure smoother progress of road work.

In addition, locals raised concerns about poor electricity connections in the Hakkipikki Colony of Sadali village and other nearby government-provided residential sites. The MLA assured that the issue would be addressed in coordination with BESCOM officials to restore reliable power supply. Officials from the Public Works, Minor Irrigation, BESCOM, and Revenue Departments—including Tadur Raghu, Thyagaraj, Avularedy, Gangadhar, and Anjinappa—were present during the inspection, along with local residents who appreciated the MLA's prompt attention to their grievances.

# Tankers Dump Chemical Wastewater into Kunchiganahalli

**Vigilant villagers spotted tankers dumping contaminated water in open fields, recorded videos, confronted drivers, and demanded explanations about the source and purpose of the chemical-laden discharge**

**CHITRADURGA**

An alarming environmental violation has surfaced near Kunchiganahalli in Chitradurga, where tanker lorries were found dumping chemically mixed wastewater onto fertile agricultural lands. The act has sparked outrage among local residents and raised serious concerns about the long-term impact on soil health, water safety, and crop yield.

Vigilant villagers noticed the tankers unloading contaminated water in open fields. Acting swiftly, they recorded videos of the incident and confronted the tanker drivers, demanding to know the source and purpose of the chemical-laden discharge.

According to locals, this is not an isolated occurrence. For several days, tankers have reportedly been parking near the Jai Hind Hotel and the Ashok Leyland garage close to Kunchiganahalli, unloading industrial wastewater believed to have been transported from nearby industrial zones. Residents allege that the dumping has been taking place during late hours to avoid detection.

Villagers fear that continuous exposure to such toxic waste could render the land infertile and contaminate groundwater sources that serve nearby communities. "Our crops are at risk, and the water we use for drinking and irrigation could soon become unsafe," said a concerned farmer.

Environmental activists have demanded that authorities identify the industries responsible and initiate strict legal action against them. They have also called for immediate soil and water testing to assess the level of contamination.

Local residents have urged the Chitradurga district administration and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to intervene urgently and implement preventive measures to stop further dumping, ensuring protection of both the local environment and the livelihoods dependent on it.

# Officials trained on RAMP scheme industrial benefits

**CHITRADURGA**

A one-day training program was held at the Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat Office Hall to help government officials understand industrial schemes under the Central Government's RAMP Scheme (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance). The event was jointly organized by the Industries and Commerce Department, KCTU TEXAC, and the District Industries Center.

The program was inaugurated by B. Anand, Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat Administrator and Joint Director of the District Industries Center. He explained key points of the industrial policy, including its objectives, strategies, benefits, and application procedures. Anand urged officials to raise public awareness about industrial opportunities and government assistance available under the scheme.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Y. Ravikumar highlighted that Chitradurga is still considered a backward district and stressed the need for officials to help entrepreneurs set up industries and make the district economically stronger. Deputy Director B.K. Manjunathaswamy spoke on Karnataka's industrial progress, stating that the state's GDP, industrial growth, and investments remain stable and are now accelerating. He said Chitradurga should aim to be part of the State Value Chain Map, just as Karnataka has gained recognition on the global stage through innovation and skill development. He also explained details of government subsidies, incentives, MSME schemes, and the Ease of Doing Business initiative, along with policies on capital investment, land, power, and water needs for new industries. Officials were urged to actively promote these opportunities to local entrepreneurs for the district's overall growth.

*Farmers said August rains and cloudy weather damaged Chitradurga onion crops, urging govt to release compensation*

# Protest Demanding Crop Insurance Release and Curbs on Mining Trucks

**CHITRADURGA**

Farmers staged a protest in Chitradurga demanding the immediate release of crop insurance compensation and strict action to control the movement of mining lorries in the region. The protest was organised by the district unit of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and the Bhimasamudra village branch. The protesters submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner urging prompt government intervention.

Farmers highlighted that heavy rainfall and cloudy weather conditions during August had severely damaged onion crops across several parts of Chitradurga district. Citing the Andhra Pradesh government's relief model, they demanded that the Karnataka government release compensation funds without further delay to support the affected farmers. Protesters also expressed concern over the increasing number of mining trucks operating in the area, alleging that their movement is damaging rural roads and posing safety risks to villagers. They urged authorities to impose strict regulations to prevent further inconvenience and ensure the welfare of local farming communities.

# Kolar Man Kills 5-Year-Old Daughter, Commits Suicide over Family Dispute

**KOLAR**

In a shocking turn of events in Mudiyanur village, Mulbagal taluk, a man allegedly killed his 5-year-old daughter before taking his own life, police said. The deceased have been identified as Lokesh (37) and his daughter, Niharika (5).

Preliminary investigations suggest the tragedy was triggered by ongoing family disputes. Lokesh's wife had reportedly been absent from the home, and following her disappearance, he allegedly strangled Niharika to death. Disturbingly, he placed her body inside a car before hanging himself from a nearby tree.

The incident unfolded within the jurisdiction of the Mulbagal Rural police station, which responded swiftly to the distress call from local residents. Officials confirmed that they are investigating the matter further to understand the sequence of events leading up to the tragedy and the underlying reasons for the domestic dispute.

Police officials are also examining Lokesh's mental state and background, while coordinating with social services to provide support to the extended family and neighbors traumatized by the incident.

Community members expressed shock and grief over the brutal act, urging increased awareness around mental health and domestic conflict resolution. "It's a heartbreaking situation. Families need support and access to counseling before disputes escalate to such irreversible acts," said one local resident.

Authorities have appealed to the public to report any signs of domestic abuse or extreme distress among family members to prevent similar tragedies in the future. The case remains under investigation, and the police have promised a thorough probe into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Lokesh and Niharika.

# Chidananda Swamy wins prestigious DPEO role award

**CHITRADURGA**

Chitradurga District Physical Education Officer Chidananda Swamy was honored with the MVLA Global Best DPEO Role Model Award-2025 at the Global Teacher Award ceremony organized by MVLA Trust in Delhi.

Known for his dedication and creativity, Swamy has motivated students across the district to excel in sports and fostered a spirit of sportsmanship. His guidance has led to remarkable achievements among young athletes. The Deputy Director of the School Education Department, M.R. Manjunath, and local administration congratulated him for this recognition. Swamy's award highlights his commitment to promoting physical education and inspiring future generations.

# Folk Music Mirrors Our Culture and Way of Life: Bevoor Ramayya

**KENGERI**

Folk singer from Akashvani and Doordarshan, Bevoor Ramayya, said that folk music and art reflect our culture and traditions while teaching us the essence of our way of life.

He was speaking after inaugurating the IQAC Arpith Mahotsav 2025 organised at Sheshadripuram Academy of Business Studies College in Kengeri.

Ramayya said that the art, culture, and folk traditions of our land's glorious past serve as an inspiration for today's generation. "Only folk traditions have the power to keep our culture alive. Students must imbibe these values to foster love for our nation and language," he advised.

Principal of Sheshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, Dr. Jayaram, said that folk traditions are symbols of Indian culture and urged every student to work towards preserving and promoting the land, language, and heritage.

Around 350 students from 32 different pre-university colleges participated in the event.

Those present included Dr. Jayaram, Principal of Sheshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, Dr. Manjunath, Principal of the Pre-University College, programme coordinators Shivakumar C.S., Prof. Lakshmi S., IQAC coordinator Dr. Roopashree U., and faculty members Dr. Shobha and Dr. Sowmya D.S., among others.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I MUKUND G KATTI S/O GURURAJ KATTI, R/O A-502, Elegant Whispering Winds, Nagegowdanapalya, Kanakapura Road, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560109, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUKUND KATTI.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I HEMAVATI alias HEMAVATI PRAKASH ARI D/O MAHADEVAPPA W/O LATE PRAKASH, R/O # No. 1147/1, Hosa Badavanne Road, Nesargi, Sampgaon, Belgaum, Karnataka - 591121, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUBHADRA MAHADEVAPPA VANAHALLI.

**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, M.L.B.C.C.
Division No.2, Naviluteertha - 591116, Taluk: Saundatti, Dist: Belagavi.
Phone No: 08330-224500 E-mail: eemlbcnth@gmail.com

No: MLBCC-2/DB/4701 KTR-1/CALL-3/E-tender/2025-26/1610, Date: 27-10-2025

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-3)**
(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal System Only)

Electronic percentage tender through KPP Platform is invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, MLBCC Division No.2, Naviluteertha, on behalf of M.D., KNNL, Bengaluru for taking up the following work from the eligible Contractors registered under KPWD. The tenderers are required to apply in Two Cover System (as per KTTP Act 2000).

**Estimated Amount Rs. 100.00 Lakhs**
**Work Indent Numbers: 2942**

**1)** Last Date for Tender Receipt: **15-11-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 2) Cover-I,** Technical Bid will be Opened on **17-11-2025 after 11.00 AM. 3) Cover-II,** Financial Bid will be Opened on **18-11-2025 after 11.00 AM.**

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/-**
**(V.K. Mudigoudar)**
**Executive Engineer (I/C),**
**KNNL, MLBCC Division No.2,**
**Naviluteertha.**

DIPR/Belagavi/1263/Adverto/2025-26

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
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**SALE NOTICE (AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ITEMS)**

The under mentioned person/s are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **20.11.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the **Bank's** premises at **11.00 A.M.** on **21.11.2025** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the bank.

| Sl. No | Name | Scheme Code | Loan Account No | Sanctioned Amount | Out standing Balance | Total Gross weight in gms | Total Net weight in gms |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Muturaj | LA411 | 67380600002607 | 25000 | 26,615.99 | 14.70 | 12.70 |

**Place : Bangalore**
**Date : 04.11.2025**
**Sd/- Authorized Officer**
**Bank of Baroda**

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IFSC CODE BARBOVONDAR

**GOLD SALE NOTICE (AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ITEMS)**

The under mentioned person/s are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **04.12.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public/ Offline auction at the cost of the borrower at the **Bank of Baroda, Vondaraguppe Branch** premises at **11.00 A.M.** on **05.12.2025** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the bank.

| Customer Name & Address | Account Number | Gross weight | Net weight | Outstanding Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mr. Hemanth Kumar** 6th Cross, Maruthi badavane, Channapatna, Ramanagaram 562160 | 11760600011516 | 5.80 grams | 5.00 grams | Rs.17,000+ Intersest+ Other Charges |

**Date : 06.11.2025**
**Place : Bengaluru**
**Sd/- Authorised Officer**
**Bank of Baroda**

# What's your skincare routine, sir?

## Tattoo, trolls bring laughter during PM Modi's interaction with world champions at his residence.

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted India's World Cup-winning women's cricket team at his residence on Wednesday for a cheerful and informal conversation that went beyond cricket. Topics like tattoos and even skincare came up, bringing laughter all around.

India recently defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the final at Navi Mumbai to claim their first-ever global title. The team, along with head coach Amol Muzumdar and BCCI president Mithun Manhas, met the Prime Minister to celebrate the achievement.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur expressed pride, recalling their 2017 meeting with Modi after losing the World Cup final. "This time, we brought the trophy home," she said. Modi praised the team, saying cricket is the lifeblood of India and their victory brought joy to the entire nation.

Deepti Sharma's Lord Hanuman tattoo drew Modi's curiosity. She said she finds strength in her faith, especially during tough times. The moment turned humorous when Harleen Deol asked the Prime Minister about his skincare routine. Modi laughed and replied, "I don't think about all that."

Smriti Mandhana spoke about how Modi's past words inspired the team over the years. Jemimah Rodrigues highlighted the unity that powered their success. Muzumdar recalled the team's wish to meet Modi with the trophy after visiting King Charles earlier this year.

**CHIT-CHAT**

**Harleen Deol:** What's your skincare routine?

**Modi:** I don't think about all that.

**Harmanpreet Kaur:** This time, we brought the trophy home, Modi ji.

**Modi:** Cricket is the lifeblood of India and the victory brought joy to the entire nation

**Modi:** I'm curious to know about your Hanuman tattoo.

**Deepti Sharma:** I find strength in my faith, especially during tough times.

**Modi:** And, you have written 'Jai Shree Ram' on your Instagram account (bio) as well?

**Deepti Sharma:** Yes, I do.

Before concluding, Modi urged players to visit schools and motivate young students, saying such gestures would inspire future generations and keep their own spirits high.

# Cong mocks Modi govt over Trump's fresh truce claim

**NEW DELHI**

> **This makes it 58 times since May 10 that Trump has said he used tariffs to stop Operation Sindoor.**
> —Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader

The Congress on Thursday mocked the Modi government after US President Donald Trump once again claimed he had brought peace between India and Pakistan by threatening to withdraw trade deals.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a jibe on X, saying, "This makes it 58 times since May 10 that Trump has said he used tariffs to stop Operation Sindoor." He listed several cities — from Washington DC to Miami — where Trump had repeated the same claim.

Speaking at the America Business Forum in Miami, Trump said India and Pakistan "made peace" after he warned both nations he would halt trade agreements if they continued their conflict. He described how both sides stopped fighting after his intervention and credited his tariff policy for ending the hostilities.

Since May 10, Trump has often said that his pressure helped the two nuclear powers agree to a ceasefire after "a long night of talks mediated by Washington." India, however, has repeatedly rejected any third-party role in the issue.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. The operation targeted terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir before a ceasefire was reached on May 10.

**QUICK READ**

### DyCM Sinha's convoy attacked in Bihar

**Lakhisarai**
Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha alleged that RJD supporters attacked his convoy in Lakhisarai on Thursday. He claimed that slippers, stones, and cow dung were thrown at his vehicle as the attackers tried to capture a polling booth. Sinha accused the local administration of inaction and said he would file a complaint with the Election Commission. Voting for 121 seats was underway in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections amid tight security.

### Rahul warns youth of vote theft

**Purnea**
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP would try to "steal votes" in the Bihar Assembly elections and urged the youth to prevent it. Speaking at a rally in Purnea, he claimed the BJP and the Election Commission had "stolen" the Haryana polls and might do the same in Bihar. Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of favouring billionaires while leaving youth jobless and criticised CM Nitish Kumar for reducing Bihar's youth to labourers.

## Girl dies, 5 hurt as swing collapses at fair

**BULANDSHAHR**

A tragic accident at the Kartik Purnima Fair in Ramghat village on Wednesday evening claimed the life of a six-year-old girl and left five others injured when a swing collapsed during the festivities.

Police said the incident took place around 6 p.m. after the swing's axle bearing broke, causing it to crash suddenly.

The victim, identified as Himanshi (6), was standing close to the ride when it fell, suffering severe injuries. Five people who were on the swing also sustained minor injuries in the mishap.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Tejveer Singh stated that the injured were immediately taken to a nearby hospital. Doctors there declared the child brought dead, while the others were treated for minor wounds and discharged after first aid.

Following the accident, authorities took four persons into custody for questioning. Police have registered a case at Ramghat police station under relevant sections related to negligence and safety violations.

# Assembly polls crucial to make Bihar infiltrator-free: Shah

**BETTIAH**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are taking away local jobs and posing serious security risks.

He declared that the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections are crucial to make the state "infiltrator-free."

Addressing election rallies in West Champaran and Motihari districts, Shah accused the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of spreading violence and fear during its rule, adding that there is "no place for bahubalis" (strongmen) in the NDA government.

Taking a dig at the opposition, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi created the Makhana Board, but if Lalu and his allies return to power, they will form an 'infiltrator entry board.'"

Shah stressed that only the leadership of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar could prevent the return of "jungle raj" in Bihar. He alleged that Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rahul Gandhi were trying to help infiltrators gain a foothold in the state.

Calling the Mahagathbandhan a "thagbandhan" (coalition of cheats), Shah warned that Champaran could turn into a "mini-Chambal" if the alliance came to power.

Highlighting development plans, Shah announced a new airport for Champaran, the reopening of closed sugar mills through cooperatives, and welfare schemes for the Tharu community. He also said a new medical college would come up in Motihari and that ₹100 crore would be spent to renovate the Baba Someshwar Nath temple in Areraj.

# Shiv Sena (UBT) slams govt for poll-focused decisions

**MUMBAI**

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Thursday accused the BJP-led Maharashtra government of taking politically motivated decisions ahead of local and civic body elections. It also criticised the State Election Commission (SEC) for announcing polls to 246 nagar parishads and 42 nagar panchayats without fixing errors in the voter list.

In a sharp editorial in its party mouthpiece Saamana, the Thackeray-led faction said the government "talks big but fails in action." It alleged that the administration became "suddenly active" just before the model code of conduct came into force, passing 21 cabinet decisions and issuing 220 government resolutions in one day.

The editorial said the state failed to provide timely relief to 68 lakh rain-hit farmers struggling during Diwali. It claimed the government ignored repeated appeals from opposition parties to correct voter list errors and instead "imposed" elections on people. "Only a few districts have completed crop damage assessments. This is their idea of efficiency," it added.

The government disbursed large funds to civic bodies and approved new schemes to gain political mileage. It alleged that funds worth several thousand crores were released for agriculture and development projects to woo voters before polls.

The editorial also criticised Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for warning contractors over project delays, questioning why works weren't completed earlier. "Who is responsible for unpaid dues and contractor suicides?" it asked.

Concluding its remarks, Saamana said the government's recent decisions showed political opportunism, not good governance, and were aimed at securing dominance in the upcoming local body elections being held after three and a half years.

# PM Modi to flag off 4 Vande Bharat trains

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on November 8 to flag off four new Vande Bharat Express trains, marking another step in India's modern rail expansion.

Officials said this initiative aims to make rail travel faster, more comfortable, and accessible for passengers nationwide.

The new trains will run on the Banaras–Khajuraho, Lucknow–Saharanpur, Firozpur–Delhi, and Ernakulam–Bengaluru routes.

The Banaras–Khajuraho train will cut travel time by nearly 2 hours and 40 minutes. It will connect key spiritual and cultural centres such as Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and Khajuraho, offering pilgrims a quick and comfortable route to the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Lucknow–Saharanpur service will complete its journey in about 7 hours and 45 minutes, saving nearly an hour. It will benefit passengers from Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor, and other major towns, while improving access to Haridwar via Roorkee.

The Firozpur–Delhi train will be the fastest on its route, covering the journey in just 6 hours and 40 minutes. It will enhance links between Delhi and Punjab's cities like Firozpur, Bathinda, and Patiala, boosting trade and tourism in the border region.

In the south, the Ernakulam–Bengaluru train will complete its trip in 8 hours and 40 minutes, cutting over two hours of travel time. The service will connect key IT and commercial centres, promoting greater economic and tourism activity across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

## Forces intensify terrorist hunt in J&K's Kishtwar

**JAMMU**

Security forces have launched a major search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district to track down two to three terrorists hiding in the Chatru forest area.

The operation began after an encounter on Wednesday in which one jawan was injured. Officials said the terrorists are suspected to be Pakistani nationals. Drones, sniffer dogs, and reinforcements have been deployed. Kishtwar has witnessed six encounters in the past seven months as forces intensify their crackdown on militants.

# SC rejects Azam Khan's plea in passport case

**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed former Uttar Pradesh MLA Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan's plea seeking to quash proceedings in a case related to allegedly using fake documents to obtain a passport.

A bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma upheld the Allahabad High Court's July 23 order, which had refused to end the trial and directed the court in Rampur to continue proceedings as per law. Khan is the son of senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan.

Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, informed the Supreme Court that the trial had already concluded and the case was listed for final arguments. The bench observed there was no need for interference at this stage, saying, "Let the trial court decide it. Have faith in the trial court."

The court clarified that the trial court could decide all issues independently, without being influenced by previous orders.

The case originated from a July 2019 FIR in Rampur alleging that Khan obtained his passport using forged documents. His date of birth was listed as January 1, 1993, in school records but as September 30, 1990, in his passport.

A chargesheet was filed against him under sections 420 (cheating) and 471 (using forged documents) of the Indian Penal Code, and section 12(1A) of the Passport Act.

Khan had earlier argued before the high court that the case violated the principle of "double jeopardy" since a similar case concerning his birth certificate was pending. The high court dismissed his plea, terming it "devoid of merits."

**COLLEGE QUOTA**

# *BCI clears Kerala's plan for transgender seats*

**KOCHI**

In a progressive move towards inclusivity, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has given interim approval to the Kerala government's proposal to reserve two supernumerary seats for transgender students in all law colleges across the state.

The approval came after the Kerala High Court's directive on October 24, asking the BCI to consider and act on the proposal. The state government had submitted the plan on August 6, seeking additional seats under the transgender category in both three-year and five-year LLB programmes.

During Thursday's hearing, Justice V.G. Arun expressed satisfaction over the progress made. "It is heartening to note that the BCI has granted interim approval for two supernumerary seats in each law college for transgender candidates for the academic year 2025–26," the court noted.

The development came in response to a petition filed by a transgender woman who had cleared the Kerala Law Entrance Examination (KLEE) 2025 and was eligible for admission to the Government Law College, Kozhikode. However, she was denied admission as no separate category existed for transgender candidates in the allotment list.

The petitioner argued that the denial violated her fundamental rights, the Supreme Court's NALSA judgment, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which ensures equal educational opportunities.

Her counsel also informed the court that all law colleges and universities in Kerala would be included in the case, noting that only the University of Calicut had been named earlier.

The High Court has scheduled the next hearing for November 7, with Justice Arun remarking, "Let this be helpful to others also."

# Cong cannot erase Bhagalpur massacre stains: Modi

'The RJD caused caste riots, and Cong fueled communal riots. The massacre's stain will remain forever like the killing of Sikhs cannot be erased'

**PATNA**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday strongly criticized the Congress and RJD at an election rally in Bhagalpur, accusing both parties of dividing Bihar along caste and communal lines.

He said Congress could never remove the stain of the Bhagalpur massacre.

"The RJD caused caste riots, and Congress fueled communal riots. The Bhagalpur massacre's stain will remain forever, just like the killing of Sikhs cannot be erased. Congress can never wash this shame from its record," PM Modi said. He claimed that such politics forced Bihar's youth to leave the state in search of work.

"Those who follow destructive politics do not care about Bihar's development. Many young people had to migrate due to their misdeeds. The NDA is determined that Bihar's youth will stay and contribute to Bihar's progress," he added.

PM Modi also pointed out divisions within the Congress-RJD alliance. "They are not united even within the alliance. RJD leaders are visible on their posters, but Congress leaders are missing, and vice versa. They fear each other's shadow," he said. He criticized Congress for remaining silent on RJD announcements and for insulting Chhath, saying Bihar's women would not allow the return of jungle raj.

Phase two polling in Bhagalpur and Araria is scheduled for November 11 in the Bihar Assembly elections.

### 'Only one voice is coming from Bihar — NDA again'

Targeting the Grand Alliance while addressing a rally in Araria, the Prime Minister said the voter enthusiasm reflected strong support for the NDA. "Only one voice is coming from Bihar — NDA again. Women and youth are voting in large numbers. I congratulate all voters."

## Polls a golden chance to end two-decades of betrayal: Kharge

**NEW DELHI**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday called on the people of Bihar to use their votes to bring change, describing the ongoing Assembly elections as a historic opportunity to end two decades of "betrayal" by opportunistic rulers.

Writing on social media platform X, Kharge said, "The first phase of polling has begun in Bihar — the land where democracy was born. I urge every voter to come out in large numbers and shape a new direction for the state after 20 years."

The Congress chief highlighted the need for a Bihar that offers youth secure jobs and relief from unemployment and migration. "We must create a Bihar where young people can dream, work, and prosper without leaving their homeland," he said.

He stressed inclusive progress and social justice, urging equal rights for Dalits, Mahadalits, tribals, backward classes, the economically weak, and minorities. "Together, we can redefine social justice and strengthen Bihar's role in the nation's growth," he added.

Kharge sharply criticized the ruling parties, accusing them of masking corruption and misrule as development. He urged citizens to use the elections to teach a lesson to those who have misled them.

He also addressed first-time voters, asking them to participate actively.

Polling for the first phase began at 7 a.m. across 18 districts, covering 121 constituencies. A total of 1,314 candidates, including 122 women, are in the fray. The Election Commission reported 3.75 crore voters, with 45,341 polling stations, including model booths, women-managed booths, and disability-friendly stations.

Voting will continue until 6 p.m., except in six Naxal-affected constituencies where it ends at 5 p.m. Extensive security measures, including over 15 battalions of police and paramilitary forces, have been deployed to ensure smooth polling across districts such as Patna, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, and Buxar.

## Cong plans massive signature drive against 'vote theft'

**NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Thursday announced it will submit a memorandum with over five crore signatures to President Droupadi Murmu on November 8, raising concerns about alleged electoral manipulation and "Vote Chori."

K. C. Venugopal, General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (Organisation), said the massive signature drive reflects widespread anger and concern among citizens over issues such as duplicate voting, fake voter entries, and fraudulent addresses in electoral rolls.

**'The party to submit over 5 crore signatures to the President'**

He highlighted the party's ongoing "Vote Chor Gaddi Chod" campaign, which has made five clear demands to the Election Commission: prosecute officials involved in voter suppression; publish a machine-readable voter list with photographs; release deletion and addition lists before elections; establish a grievance system for wrongful deletions; and fix a cutoff date for voter list changes to avoid last-minute manipulations.

Venugopal said the campaign began on September 15, 2025, after state-level rallies from August 22 to September 7, with lakhs of citizens participating nationwide. Party members, community leaders, and professionals have joined hands in this effort to protect democratic norms.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly highlighted the alleged "vote chori" orchestrated by the BJP with the Election Commission, calling it a threat to the people's mandate.

On November 8, the campaign's first phase will conclude with events at all state headquarters, attended by senior leaders. The collected signatures will be sent to AICC headquarters, with more expected to be gathered in the next phase.

Venugopal emphasized that the movement is a citizens' call for accountability, transparency, and faith restoration in India's electoral process.

**QUICK READ**

### Brazilian model shocked by photo

**New Delhi**

Brazilian model Larissa expressed disbelief after her old photo went viral in India on Wednesday. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had shown the image during a press meet, alleging it was used multiple times for voter fraud in the 2024 Haryana Assembly polls. The model, reacting in Portuguese, said she was shocked that her teenage photo was used in an election issue. "They're portraying me as Indian to scam people. What madness!" she said in a video shared online.

## If you have guts, come and arrest me: KTR to CM Reddy

**HYDERABAD**

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, daring him to arrest him over the alleged Formula E race corruption case.

Reacting to the Chief Minister's claim of a "secret pact" between the BRS and the BJP, KTR accused Revanth Reddy of "ignorance" and said the case against him was politically motivated. "The government sought the Governor's permission to prosecute me, and it was granted. A charge sheet has already been filed. Once that happens, no further approval is needed," KTR said.

He went on to challenge the Chief Minister to take a lie detector test. "If you are a man, come and face a live lie detector test with me. Let the people see who is telling the truth in the ACB inquiries against us," he declared while releasing the BRS progress report for Jubilee Hills.

KTR accused the Congress of hypocrisy, claiming the ruling party had closer ties with the BJP. "When Rahul Gandhi opposed the ED and CBI, Revanth Reddy's government called for a CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram project. His government was also the first to implement the NDA's Waqf Amendment Act," he alleged.

Defending the BRS government's track record, KTR said ₹5,328 crore was spent between 2014 and 2023 on development projects in Jubilee Hills, benefiting over 2.12 lakh residents.

Taking a dig at Revanth Reddy's remarks on Muslims, KTR said, "Muslims existed before the Congress and will continue to exist without it."

## Garg death probe fallout: Assam CIC Mahanta quits amid brother's arrest

**GUWAHATI**

Assam Chief Information Commissioner and former Director-General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta resigned from his post after multiple RTI queries were filed concerning his brother, Shyamkanu Mahanta, who is among those arrested in the Zubeen Garg death case.

Sources said Mahanta stepped down following Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's recommendation, citing a possible conflict of interest. "It was appropriate for him to resign as his brother is under investigation," the Chief Minister said.

Singer Zubeen Garg was found dead in Singapore waters on September 19, a day before he was to perform at a music festival organised by Shyamkanu Mahanta. So far, seven people have been arrested in connection with the case, including Shyamkanu, Garg's cousin and police officer Sandipan Garg, band manager Siddharth Sharma, two band members, and two security staff.

Police said Shyamkanu faces serious charges including murder, culpable homicide, criminal conspiracy, and causing death by negligence. Investigators are also probing his alleged involvement in financial fraud, money laundering, and illegal real estate deals.

The two security guards, Nandeswar Bora and Paresh Baishya, were arrested after suspicious bank transactions of over ₹1.1 crore were detected. All accused are in judicial custody till November 11.

Chief Minister Sarma stated that the case was one of "murder, not accident," adding that a chargesheet would be filed before December 17.

A special 10-member team led by Special DGP Munna Gupta is handling the probe. Singapore authorities have submitted Zubeen's autopsy report, and investigators are reconstructing the singer's final 48 hours. Pharmaceutical drugs found in his belongings have become a key focus of the ongoing investigation.

## Gujarat DyCM starts 2-day tour of India-Pak border villages

**KUTCH**

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi visited Punarajpar village in Lakhpat taluka, the first Indian village along the India-Pakistan border, to review the living conditions of border residents.

His visit marks the start of a larger initiative by the state government and 30 senior IPS officers to prepare a detailed report on 40 key areas including education, health, infrastructure, livelihoods, and social welfare.

Sanghavi was welcomed with slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and traditional Kutch attire, reflecting the villagers' patriotism. During the visit, he interacted with Sarpanches, elders, women, and youth, listening to their concerns and understanding their daily life, culture, and challenges.

He shared lunch with villagers, highlighting the government's effort to stay close to people living in remote areas. Speaking to the gathering, Sanghavi praised the courage and patriotism of border residents, calling Punarajpar "the gateway of Gujarat and the pride of the nation." He said, "Though the village population is small, its strength and spirit to defend the nation are immense."

He noted that, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Gujarat's border villages now have better water, electricity, and healthcare facilities, contrasting sharply with conditions across the border in Pakistan. He urged villagers to remain alert and report any suspicious activities, describing them as "sentinels of national security."

Local MLA Pradyumansinh Jadeja thanked Sanghavi and encouraged youth to consider joining the Armed Forces. Kutch Collector Anand Patel, District Development Officer Utsav Gautam, Range IG Chirag Kordia, and other district officials accompanied the Deputy CM during the visit, reinforcing the government's commitment to border area development.

## Dismembered body of woman found in Noida drain

**NEW DELHI**

Shock and panic spread across Noida's Sector-108 area on Thursday morning after the mutilated body of an unidentified woman was found in a drain under the Sector-39 police station limits.

Police said the body was discovered without clothes, with the victim's head and both hands severed. A morning walker first spotted the body and immediately alerted authorities. Forensic teams and local police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem examination.

Additional DCP (Noida), in a video statement shared on X, confirmed that the body had been recovered and said three teams were formed to identify the victim. "Panchnama and post-mortem procedures are underway," he said.

Preliminary investigation suggests the woman was murdered elsewhere, and her body was dumped in the drain to hide her identity. Police believe the head and hands were removed to make identification difficult.

CCTV footage from nearby areas is being scanned to trace the movement of vehicles and suspects. The forensic team has collected soil, water, and tyre mark samples from the site for analysis. Alerts have also been sent to nearby police stations to match missing person reports with the victim's description.

## Social security schemes now cover over 64% of India's population: Labour Minister

**NEW DELHI**

Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday highlighted India's progress in poverty reduction and social protection at a high-level roundtable and plenary session in Doha.

Speaking at a NITI Aayog side event titled "Pathways Out of Poverty: India's Experience in Empowering the Last Mile," Mandaviya shared that India has lifted nearly 250 million people out of multi-dimensional poverty and extended social security to over 64% of the population.

He noted that women and children remain central to India's development, with more than 118 million schoolchildren receiving mid-day meals and millions of women engaged in self-help groups promoting local entrepreneurship. Mandaviya emphasised the role of the JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile—in improving welfare delivery, ensuring transparency and inclusion.

He highlighted skill development initiatives, mentioning that over 14 million youth have been trained under the Skill India Mission. He added that the new Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana aims to create 35 million formal jobs. Between 2017 and 2023, India created more than 170 million jobs, with unemployment falling from six per cent to 3.2 per cent, and women's workforce participation nearly doubling.

He cited India's strong social security ecosystem, with the EPFO serving over 78 million members, ESIC covering 158 million insured persons, and e-Shram supporting 310 million unorganised workers.

**CAPACITY TEST**

## *Bomb threat preparedness drill held at Imphal Airport*

**IMPHAL**

A high-intensity mock bomb threat drill was conducted at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport in Imphal on Thursday to test the airport's security preparedness, officials said.

The exercise involved personnel from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and key agencies including the Dog Squad, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Bureau of Immigration, Manipur Police, airlines, AAI staff, and the airport fire service.

"The drill not only tested rapid response protocols but also strengthened coordination among all agencies, ensuring the airport is ready to handle high-risk bomb threats efficiently," a CISF source said.

Located six kilometers from Imphal city, the airport connects to major cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, and Agartala. Officials said similar exercises will be conducted across 17 operational airports in the Northeast, where CISF personnel are deployed.

The drill follows a recent incident when flight operations were temporarily halted after a drone was sighted near the airport. An IndiGo flight reported the drone at 3,600–4,000 feet while approaching from Agartala. Operations resumed only after Manipur Police cleared the airspace.

Authorities have warned the public not to operate drones near the airport or surrounding areas, including Imphal City, Nambol, and Bishnupur, citing serious safety risks. Violations may lead to temporary airport closure and strict legal action, officials said.

Imphal West Superintendent of Police Shivakanta Singh urged people to report any drone activity between Sanjenthong and Kwakeithel, warning that legal action will be taken against offenders. Last year, Assam Rifles deployed anti-drone systems in fringe areas of the Imphal Valley to counter rogue drones.

Ensuring passenger safety and smooth flight operations remains the top priority of airport authorities.

## QUICK READ

### Margherita meets Ecuador ministers to boost ties

**QUITO**

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita on Thursday held discussions with Ecuadorian Ministers, Vice Ministers and officials to deepen cooperation between India and the South American country across key sectors, including agriculture, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, training, education, culture, tourism, trade, textiles, health and pharmaceuticals. The MoS reaffirmed India's commitment to engage with Ecuador within the framework of South-South cooperation. Taking to X, Margherita wrote: Delighted to meet Ministers, Vice Ministers and officials from various Ecuadorian Ministries.

### Non-bailable arrest warrant against Imran's sister

**ISLAMABAD**

Anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan for the eighth consecutive time due to her repeated failure to appear before the court, local media reported. The case being heard in the ATC is lodged at Sadiqabad Police Station, which includes charges of holding a protest against the government, shouting anti-government slogans, vandalism, and stone-pelting. The court ordered the Capital Development Authority.

### 270 Indians fleeing Myanmar scam hub return home

**BANGKOK**

At least 270 Indian nationals, including 26 women, were repatriated from Thailand's Mae Sot city to India by two special Indian Air Force (IAF) flights, the Indian Embassy in Bangkok said in a statement on Thursday. The Embassy of India in Bangkok and the Consulate of India in Chiang Mai province in Thailand, in close coordination with various agencies of the Royal Thai Government, facilitated the repatriation process. According to the Indian Embassy, these Indian nationals recently crossed into Thailand from the Myawaddy region of Myanmar, where they were allegedly working in cyber scam centres.

# It's time for India-Panama to draw closer ties: EAM

## Indian envoy meets Panama Prez, extends wishes on 'Fiestas Patria' and I-Day; India lights its 'Qutub Minar' with colours of Panama's national flag.

**PANAMA CITY**

India's Ambassador to Panama, Sumit Seth, called on Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino and senior cabinet ministers on Thursday to extend greetings on the occasion of Fiestas Patria and Panama's Independence Day.

The meeting underscored the strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Panama, which share a long-standing history of friendship and cooperation.

Courtesy Meeting with Hon'ble President of Panama. Ambassador Sumit Seth met Hon'ble President HE Jose Raul Mulino along with Senior Cabinet Ministers and conveyed festive greetings on the occasion of Fiestas Patria and Independence Day of Panama, the Indian Embassy in Panama posted on X.

As a mark of goodwill and solidarity, India's iconic monument, the Qutub Minar, was illuminated with the colours of Panama's national flag. The Indian mission highlighted this symbolic gesture, stating, As a special gesture, India's historical monument 'Qutub Minar' was lit with the colours of the national flag of Panama to mark their Independence Day.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also conveyed warm wishes to his Panamanian counterpart, Javier Martinez-Acha Vasquez, reaffirming India's commitment to strong bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

In October, the Indian Embassy announced the formation of a new 20-member Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group between India and Panama. Ambassador Seth, along with senior Panamanian officials, attended the oath-taking ceremony at the National Assembly in Panama City, marking a new chapter in parliamentary diplomacy.

### TIES THAT ARE WARM AND FRESH

India-Panama relations are the oldest in the Central American region dating back to the middle of the 19th Century when groups of Indians came to Panama to work on the construction of Panama Railways and later the Panama Canal in the early 20th Century. The diplomatic relations between India and Panama were established in 1962, and the two nations continue to share warm political and cultural relations, supported by active missions in New Delhi and Mumbai.

# Indian team explores co-production avenues in Israel defence firms

**TEL AVIV**

In a bid to boost defence cooperation between India and Israel, an Indian delegation led by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh visited leading Israeli defence companies exploring opportunities for co-production and co-development to deepen bilateral ties and promote the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, leading the Indian delegation, visited key Israeli defence companies — Elbit Systems, Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, and Israel Aerospace Industries— to explore avenues for co-production and co-development, aimed at strengthening existing partnerships and advancing the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, Spokesperson of Indian Defence Ministry posted on X on Thursday.

Singh also called on Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz and briefed him on the key outcomes of the Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting, aimed at further strengthening the robust and enduring defence cooperation between India and Israel.

Earlier on Tuesday, India and Israel deepened their strategic defence partnership when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during the 17th meeting of the JWG on defence cooperation held in Tel Aviv.

The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Singh and Major General (Res) Amir Baram, Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defence.

The MoU encompasses a broad-based framework to expand cooperation in areas of strategic dialogue, joint training, defence industrial cooperation, and advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, and Research and Development, thus enabling the sharing of advanced defence technologies and promoting co-development and co-production projects.

The development underscored the growing strategic partnership between India and Israel, with both countries seeking to deepen their cooperation in defence and security areas.

Both sides reviewed ongoing defence cooperation and recognised the mutual benefits derived from shared expertise.

The discussions also focused on the expansion of future collaboration in technological innovation and operational capability. The two sides further reaffirmed their commitment to counterterrorism and to shared security challenges.

# India-US out to deepen ties via trade, defence

**WASHINGTON**

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met with US Senator Steve Daines to discuss deepening bilateral cooperation across trade, defence, and technology.

The meeting comes amid renewed momentum in India-US strategic relations, highlighted by the upcoming 10-year defence framework agreement.

Sharing details on X, Ambassador Kwatra said, "It was an honour to meet Senator Steve Daines, esteemed member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Thanked the Senator for his strong support to strengthening India-US ties. We had an enriching conversation on the current bilateral trade engagement, signing of the 10-year defence framework agreement, and opportunities for collaboration in technology and innovation.

He also lauded Daines' leadership in advancing India-US priorities within the US Senate. Earlier this week, Kwatra hosted US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Paul Kapur, at India House. The discussions centered on shared regional priorities and mechanisms to further strengthen bilateral relations.

# Ecuador on 60-day state emergency

**QUITO**

**The action follows an alarming surge in organised crime and violent attacks targeting law enforcement and judicial officials.**

Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa has declared a new 60-day state of emergency across five coastal provinces and three municipalities in the central region, following an alarming surge in organised crime and violent attacks targeting law enforcement and judicial officials.

The decree, signed on Tuesday and effective from Wednesday, covers the provinces of Manabi, Guayas, Santa Elena, Los Rios, and El Oro. It also extends to the municipalities of La Mana in Cotopaxi, and Las Naves and Echeandia in Bolivar. Under the emergency order, security forces are authorised to enter and search homes without warrants, and the right to private communication and correspondence has been temporarily suspended.

The measure seeks to restore order and reinforce security in regions hardest hit by criminal violence. These areas were already under emergency status since August, which was renewed for 30 days in October.

The escalation follows the shocking assassination of Judge Marcos Mendoza in Montecristi, Manabi province, last month. Mendoza was shot dead outside a school while dropping off his children, in what police suspect was a targeted attack linked to his role in a money laundering case involving prominent crime figures.

Among those being prosecuted in the case is Jose Adolfo Macias Villamar, alias Fito, leader of the notorious Los Choneros gang, one of Ecuador's most powerful criminal organisations.

The Ecuadorian Judges' Association condemned Mendoza's killing, urging the government to ensure greater protection for judicial personnel.

# N. Korea slams US sanctions on Pyongyang over cybercrime-related money laundering

**SEOUL**

North Korea on Thursday denounced the latest US sanctions on Pyongyang over cybercrime-related money laundering, vowing to respond in a corresponding manner.

The reaction came as the US announced on Tuesday that it had imposed sanctions on eight North Korean individuals and two entities for their involvement in laundering money stolen through illicit cyber activities.

The sanctions came even as US President Donald Trump has expressed his wish to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to resume stalled diplomacy with Pyongyang.

Kim Un-chol, North Korea's vice foreign minister in-charge of US affairs, stated that Washington's latest sanctions demonstrate its hostile policy toward the North. As long as the current US administration has laid out its stance that it will be hostile to us to the end, we will also respond to them with patience and in a corresponding manner, read a statement. Denouncing the US for showing its malicious nature, the North's official warned Washington should not expect its tactics of pressure, appeasement and threats against North Korea will work.

The US sanctions came as North Korea has not responded to Trump's proposal to meet with the North's leader during his latest trip to South Korea for the APEC Summit.

Earlier this week, the US State Department had also raised the need to seek UN sanctions on seven ships accused of illegally exporting North Korean coal and iron ore to China in violation of UN Security Council sanctions over the North's nuclear and missile programmes. South Korea's spy agency said this week there were signs that North Korea had been preparing for a possible meeting with the US in time for last week's APEC gathering.

## SU DO KU

**Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?**

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| | | 8 | 7 | | 2 | 5 | | 6 |
| 6 | | 2 | | | 3 | | 7 | 4 |
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| 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 |

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

**Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.**

# Delay in US-S. Korea Summit fact-sheet suggests prolonged coordination

**SEOUL**

South Korea and the United States have yet to release their joint fact sheet on the outcome of last week's summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump, raising speculation about what has caused the extended delay. Seoul officials said earlier the two sides plan to release the fact sheet outlining the details of what was agreed upon between the two leaders within two or three days of their summit, held on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering in Gyeongju on October 29.

The joint fact sheet is expected to outline the specifics of South Korea's USD350 billion investment pledge, made in return for the United States reducing its tariff rate on South Korean goods to 15 per cent from 25 per cent.

The fact sheet is also expected to provide details on security commitments, including plans for supporting Seoul's efforts to secure fuel supplies for nuclear-powered submarines, as President Trump has signaled willingness to do so after the summit with President Lee.

As the release of the joint document appears to be delayed, speculation has grown that prolonged interagency coordination within the US government may be behind the hold-up.

Seoul has reportedly handed over its draft version of the fact sheet to Washington and is awaiting a response, according to sources with knowledge of the matter, suggesting that the delay is not due to an unfinished negotiation but has more to do with the fine-tuning among relevant US government agencies.

Speaking before lawmakers on Thursday, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said the State Department had asked him to wait a little longer.

# South Korea-Japan to hold strategic dialogue

**SEOUL**

South Korea and Japan will hold vice-ministerial diplomatic talks later this week to discuss bilateral relations, regional and global issues, Seoul's foreign ministry said on Thursday. The 16th strategic dialogue will take place in Seoul on Friday, led by First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo and his Japanese counterpart, Takehiro Funakoshi, ministry spokesperson Lee Jae-woong said in a press briefing.

There will be in-depth discussions on a broad range of issues, including the South Korea-Japan bilateral relations, regional situations and international issues, Lee said.

It marks the first strategic dialogue to be held since the leadership changes in both countries. The same talks previously took place in June last year under the preceding governments.

Friday's talks come as Seoul and Tokyo seek to maintain the positive momentum in the bilateral ties that have dramatically improved over the past two years.

At their first one-on-one talks on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Gyeongju last week, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi shared the need to enhance cooperation in a future-oriented manner.

The summit is seen as having dispelled worries about the new Japanese leader's approach to the neighboring country, given her widely known hawkish stance on past history issues stemming from Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula

## QUICK READ

### Crypto exchange Dunamu faces $24.3 million fine

**Seoul**

South Korea's financial watchdog on Thursday slapped a fine of 35.2 billion won ($24.3 million) on Dunamu, the operator of the country's top cryptocurrency exchange, Upbit, for violating customer identification obligations. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the Financial Services Commission said Dunamu did not comply with its obligations to verify the identities of users in about 5.3 million cases and committed other violations, including failing to report 15 suspicious transactions. In particular, the company accepted photocopies or re-photographed image files of user portraits, in which their identities could not be fully verified, instead of requiring original documents.

### Indian equity indices end lower amid FII outflows

**Mumbai**

The domestic equity indices closed lower on Thursday amid selling in broader markets and continued FII outflows. Selling pressure in banking, Financial Services, and FMCG heavyweights dragged the market sentiment as well. Sensex ended the session at 83,311.01, down 148.14 points or 0.18 per cent. The 30-share index started the session in green at 83,516.69 against last day's closing of 83,459.15. However, the index fell due to selling in banking, Financial Services and broader markets. Nifty closed at 25,509.70, down 87.95 points or 0.34 per cent.

### KFC operator Devyani International slips into losses

**Mumbai**

Devyani International Limited, the operator of popular quick service restaurant (QSR) brands like KFC and Pizza Hut, on Thursday slipped into losses by Rs 23.9 crore in Q2 FY26 on the sequential basis, from Rs 2.2 crore profit in the previous quarter this fiscal (Q1 FY26). On the year-on-year basis, the losses widened by a massive 367 per cent, from the loss of Rs 4.9 crore in the same quarter last fiscal (Q2 FY25), as per its stock exchange filing. The company attributed the losses to out-of-home consumption getting impacted due to both Shraavana and Navaratri falling in the same quarter, according to the exchange filing on Thursday.

# India-NZ closer to finalising FTA: Goyal

'Both countries are working toward a balanced, future-ready Free Trade Agreement; stresses mutual growth'

**AUCKLAND**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India and New Zealand are moving closer to finalising a future-ready and balanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) aimed at deepening economic ties and expanding collaboration across multiple sectors.

Goyal, who is currently on an official visit to New Zealand, reviewed the progress of the ongoing FTA negotiations with his counterpart Todd McClay and the chief negotiators from both sides. Sharing updates from Auckland on X, Goyal stated that the proposed trade pact will respect each nation's sensitivities while opening new opportunities for businesses and consumers in both countries.

The minister also addressed the India–New Zealand CEOs Roundtable in Rotorua, McClay's hometown, where business leaders — many of Indian origin — participated in discussions on strengthening bilateral commerce. Encouraged New Zealand companies to engage more closely with Indian industry in this shared journey that promises mutual benefit and long-term value, Goyal said.

Highlighting India's dynamic economic growth, he underscored the potential for deeper cooperation in technology, agriculture, education, clean energy, and sustainability. Together, we are gearing up to take India–New Zealand ties to the next level, he posted.

Goyal received a traditional Māori welcome upon arriving in Rotorua's Te Puia, symbolizing peace, harmony, and mutual respect. He was also presented with an idol of the sacred Kamdhenu cow revered in Indian culture as a symbol of prosperity, reflecting the growing people-to-people bonds between the two nations.

Expressing gratitude to Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell for the warm hospitality, Goyal reaffirmed India's commitment to expanding its strategic and cultural partnerships with New Zealand, describing the visit as a milestone in building stronger, future-focused bilateral relations.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- The partnership is built on mutual growth, respect, and cultural harmony, with a vision for long-term bilateral prosperity.
- The FTA is close to finalization, with only a "few nuances" remaining to be addressed. The 4th round of India-New Zealand FTA negotiations is currently underway in Auckland, running from November 3-7, 2025
- Both leaders have stressed a "spirit of accommodation" and a commitment to respecting each other's sensitivities during the talks.
- The agreement is viewed as a "future-ready and balanced trade pact" designed for long-term sustainability, focusing on opportunities that benefit businesses and citizens in both countries over the next 20 years

# KT Corp CEO falls on his cyber-breach sword

**SEOUL**

South Korea's second-largest mobile carrier is under investigation after a government-led probe revealed that it concealed critical malware infections that led to a major hacking and data theft incident. The findings have sparked widespread concern over the company's cybersecurity practices and its handling of customer data.

According to the joint government-private investigation team, KT became aware between March and July 2024 that 43 of its servers were infected with BPFDoor malware and other malicious programs. Despite detecting the infections which exposed sensitive customer data, the company failed to inform authorities and instead attempted to manage the breach internally. BPFDoor, a sophisticated remote access malware, enables attackers to bypass firewalls and secretly control compromised systems for extended periods. The same malware was previously linked to an attack on industry rival SK Telecom earlier this year.

**A government probe found KT Corp concealed malware infections and data theft, exposing serious cybersecurity lapses and customer risks.**

Investigators confirmed that KT's compromised servers contained personal details such as customer names, phone numbers, email addresses, and international mobile equipment identity (IMEI) data. The team described the concealment as a matter of grave concern and said it is consulting with relevant authorities to determine appropriate legal and regulatory actions.

The probe also exposed severe weaknesses in KT's femtocell management systems small, low-power base stations used to boost mobile signals, which allowed unauthorized devices to connect to the company's internal network. KT's femtocell management system was generally poor, creating an environment in which unauthorized femtocells could easily access the internal network, the investigation noted. Hackers exploiting these vulnerabilities reportedly disabled end-to-end encryption, enabling them to intercept users' payment authentication data. Authorities are now working to strengthen oversight of telecom cybersecurity, as the case underscores growing threats from advanced persistent attacks in South Korea's digital infrastructure.

**MONEY LAUNDERING**

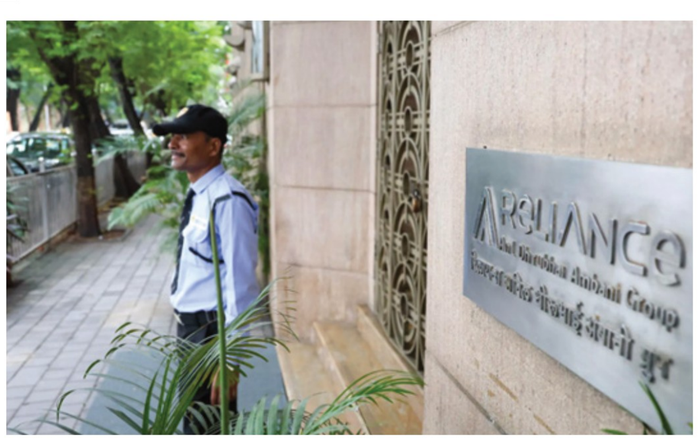
# ED summons Anil Ambani to depose on Nov 14

**NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Reliance ADAG Group Chairman, Anil Ambani, again on November 14 for questioning in the money laundering case against the conglomerate, according to sources.

The development comes close on the heels of ED provisionally attaching over 132 acres of land worth Rs 4,462.81 crore in Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City at Navi Mumbai earlier this week, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, sources added. ED had earlier attached 42 properties worth over Rs 3,083 crore in the bank fraud cases of Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCOM), Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd., and Reliance Home Finance Ltd.

The total attachment in these cases stands at over Rs 7,545 crore. ED is actively pursuing perpetrators of financial crime and is committed to restituting the proceeds of crime to their rightful claimants, the statement said.




The financial watchdog had initiated investigation based on CBI's FIR under sections 120-B, 406 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and section 13(2) read with section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1989 against RCOM, Anil Ambani, and others.

RCOM and its group companies availed loans from domestic and foreign lenders from the period of 2010-2012 onwards, of which a total amount of Rs 40,185 crores is outstanding. Five banks have declared the loan accounts of the Group as fraud, the statement said.

The ED investigation has revealed that loans taken by one entity from one bank were utilized for repayment of loans taken by other entities from other banks, transfer to related parties, and investments in mutual funds, which was in contravention to the terms and conditions of the sanction letter of the loans, the statement had explained.

# SBI decides to divert 6.3% stake in SBI Fund Management via IPO

**MUMBAI**

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday said it will divest 3.20 crore equity shares, representing 6.3007% of its total equity in SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML), through an initial public offering (IPO). Its joint venture partner, Amundi India Holding, will simultaneously divest 1.88 crore shares, or 3.7006% of the equity capital. Together, the two promoters will offload a total of 5.09 crore shares — a 10.0013% stake in SBIFML — the bank said in its stock exchange filing.

With this move, SBIFML will become the third SBI subsidiary to be listed, following SBI Cards and SBI Life Insurance. SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty said the IPO comes at an opportune moment given SBIFML's consistent performance and market leadership. Apart from maximising value realisation for existing stakeholders, the IPO will create opportunities for general shareholders, broaden market participation, and enhance awareness of our products among new investors, Setty stated.

The IPO, jointly initiated by both promoters, is expected to be completed in 2026. Valerie Baudson, CEO of Amundi, praised SBIFML's growth trajectory, saying, Over the years, SBI Funds Management Limited has established itself as the leader in India's asset management industry, successfully leveraging SBI's distribution strength and Amundi's global expertise.

SBI, India's largest public sector lender, continues to show strong financial performance. For the second quarter of FY26, the bank reported a consolidated net profit of ₹21,504.49 crore, a 6.4% year-on-year rise. Its net interest income (NII) grew 3.28% to ₹42,984 crore, while the domestic net interest margin (NIM) stood at 3.09%, slightly lower than 3.27% in the same period last year. The IPO marks another milestone in SBI's strategy to unlock value from its high-performing subsidiaries and strengthen its capital position.

## Global investment banks raise S. Korea's 2026 growth outlook to 1.9%

**SEOUL**

Major global investment banks (IBs) have raised their outlook for South Korea's 2026 economic growth, citing robust exports, a report showed on Thursday. As of end-October, eight major global investment banks (IBs), including Barclays, Bank of America and Citi, projected Asia's fourth-largest economy to expand 1.9 per cent next year, up 0.1 percentage point from their median forecast published a month earlier, according to the report by the Korea Center for International Finance (KCIF).

The outlook is rosier than the Bank of Korea's (BOK) current projection of 1.6 per cent growth for 2026. The central bank is scheduled to release a revised forecast later this month. Among the institutions, Citi revised up its forecast to 2.2 per cent from 1.6 per cent, while JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs also expected South Korea's economy to grow 2.2 per cent next year.

Nomura forecast a 1.9 percent expansion, followed by UBS with 1.8 per cent, Barclays with 1.7 per cent and Bank of America with 1.6 per cent, the KCIF said.

The IBs expected South Korea's exports to remain solid next year, sustaining the economic growth following this year's strong performance.

**ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE MAKING**

# *India's solar module production capacity set to touch125 GW by 2025*

**MUMBAI**

India's solar photovoltaic module manufacturing capacity is projected to increase to over 165 GW by March 2027, up from approximately 109 GW currently, a report said on Thursday.

The strong government support in the form of the approved list of models and manufacturers (ALMM), basic customs duty on imported cells and modules, and the production-linked incentive scheme drove the growth, the report from ratings agency ICRA said.

The report forecasts annual solar capacity installations at 45–50 gigawatt direct current (GWdc), while annual module production is expected to reach 60–65 GW, and this discrepancy may lead to a supply surplus, potentially prompting consolidation among smaller and pure-play module players.

The ALMM List-II for cells, effective June 2026, has encouraged OEMs to increase cell manufacturing to approximately 100 GW by December 2027, up from the current 17.9 GW listed under ALMM, the report noted.

Further, the recent imposition of US tariffs have redirected the supply from the export market to the domestic market, it noted.

However, the report anticipated that the vertically integrated manufacturers will benefit over the long term due to greater control over the supply chain.

Ankit Jain, Vice President and Co-Group Head-Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said that operating profitability for domestic solar OEMs at 25 per cent in FY25 is likely to moderate due to competitive pressures and overcapacity build-up. As the ALMM requirement for solar cells is effective from June 2026, a significant scale-up in the cell manufacturing capacity along with its stabilisation in a timely manner remains critical in the near term, he added.

Dependence on China for wafers, ingots poses significant risks for the industry's transition, given China's dominance in global supply and the potential geopolitical restrictions for backward integration, the report noted.

## Godrej Properties' net profit falls 32% for Q2

**MUMBAI**

Godrej Properties Limited's consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the second quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26) dropped 32% sequentially to Rs 402.99 crore as compared to Rs 598.40 crore in the previous quarter (Q1 FY26), according to an exchange filing on Thursday.

The real estate firm's revenue from operations for the quarter under review rose 70 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to Rs 740.38 crore from Rs 434.56 crore in the April-June period (Q1 FY26).

In contrast, revenue from operations declined nearly 32 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from Rs 1,093.23 crore while and PAT jumped nearly 21 per cent from Rs 333.79 crore in the same period a year ago (Q2 FY25).

Receiving RERA approval for our Worli project marks an important step forward in our development timeline. The location offers a rare combination of scale, connectivity, and visibility, said Gaurav Pandey, MD & CEO, Godrej Properties, said Gaurav Pandey, MD and CEO, Godrej Properties.

This project further strengthens GPL's presence in South Mumbai and aligns with our strategy of acquiring and developing high-potential urban land parcels. We will aim to deliver a landmark development that offers its residents an outstanding quality of life, he added.

The company informed that it has received the project registration certificate from the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA) for its upcoming residential development, Godrej Trilogy, located in Worli, Mumbai.

## Centre throws open booth bookings for startups

**NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced the opening of bookings for WaveX booths, the exclusive startup showcase zone in Waves Bazaar at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa 2025, according to an official statement issued on Thursday. The initiative aims to provide a platform for emerging startups in the AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality) and entertainment sectors to connect with global industry leaders, investors, and production studios.

Scheduled from November 20-24 2025, 'WAVES Bazar' will be located in the vicinity of Film Bazaar, the prime networking hub of IFFI known for its dynamic participation from filmmakers, producers, and media professionals from across the world.

Each booth will be available at a nominal cost of Rs. 30,000 per stall on sharing basis.

# INDIA BOWLERS SEAL 2-1 SERIES LEAD IN AUSTRALIA

## Axar's late surge powered India beyond 160, with the team needing one more win

**CARRARA**

India delivered a superb bowling show to beat Australia by 48 runs in the fourth T20 International and take a 2-1 lead in the five match series on Thursday. Australia were chasing 168, but they were all out for only 119 in 18.2 overs. India defended what looked like a modest total by putting pressure constantly and forcing mistakes. Axar Patel and Shivam Dube were the main architects of the win, taking two wickets each.

Washington Sundar also played a key role by taking three important wickets in the later part of the innings. Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakravarthy took one wicket each. Australia were 91 for three at one stage, but then lost seven wickets for just 28 runs and the match drifted away from them.

Earlier, India themselves did not bat very smoothly. They had a wicketless powerplay, but after that they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. They could only reach 167 for eight. Abhishek Sharma scored 28 and Shubman Gill top scored with 46. They added 56 for the first wicket.

Shivam Dube, promoted to number three to counter leg spinner Adam Zampa, made 22. Captain Suryakumar Yadav made 20 off just 10 balls with a few big hits, but even he could not stay long. Axar Patel hit a valuable 21 not out from only 11 balls to push the total past 160.

For Australia, Nathan Ellis was the best bowler, taking three for 21, while Zampa took three wickets but gave away 45 runs.

The first match was washed out at Canberra. The last match will be played in Brisbane on November 8. India now need only one more match to seal the series.

# President says champions truly reflect modern India

**NEW DELHI**

President Droupadi Murmu met the ICC Women's World Cup winning Indian team at Rashtrapati Bhavan and congratulated each member for creating history. She said millions of Indians in every part of the country, and even outside India, have been celebrating this victory with great pride. She told the team that they did not just win a trophy, they have also won the hearts of the entire nation.

President Murmu said this team clearly reflects India itself. Players come from different regions, speak different languages and have different personal backgrounds, yet they are one unit and one identity when they play for the country. She said this is the true strength of India — unity in diversity, and this team showed that in the best possible way.

**President said India's stunning wins showed true class, inspiring young girls everywhere, especially after beating New Zealand**

The President praised the team for defeating seven-time world champions Australia and then holding their nerve in a tough and high-pressure final against South Africa. She said winning such matches by a strong margin proves the team's class, confidence and belief in their ability.

She said that the team's rise will inspire countless young girls to aim higher in life, not only in sports but in all other fields. She noted that the team must have gone through many emotional moments during the tournament — moments of hope, stress, fear and excitement. But she said they showed courage and belief, and that is why the country believed in them too, especially after the key win against New Zealand.

President Murmu said their success also comes from family support, coaching guidance and fan love. She appreciated the head coach, bowling coach, fielding coach and all support staff, and said she hopes the team will continue to set new benchmarks for Indian cricket in the coming years.

### President felicitates World Champion Indian Women

President Droupadi Murmu hosted India's Women's ODI World Cup winning cricket team at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday and congratulated them for their historic first title. She said the team has shown the country that players from different regions and backgrounds can unite as one India, and become role models for young girls everywhere. During the meeting, Captain Harmanpreet Kaur presented the President a team jersey signed by every player. India had beaten South Africa by 52 runs on Sunday night at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai to claim their maiden World Cup. The function came a day after the team met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence at Lok Kalyan Marg, where he praised their comeback after three losses in the league stage and the online trolling they faced. After these celebrations, players will now return home and resume their domestic duties.

# ED Attaches assets of Dhawan and Raina

**MUMBAI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹11.14 crore linked to former Indian cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan in the ongoing money laundering investigation connected to the illegal betting platform 1xBet. The order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

According to the ED, assets worth ₹6.64 crore linked to mutual fund investments in the name of Suresh Raina and a property valued at ₹4.5 crore in the name of Shikhar Dhawan have been provisionally attached.

The ED said the investigation is based on FIRs filed by police agencies in different states against 1xBet operators. The probe has found that 1xBet and its surrogate brand 1xBat or 1xBat Sporting Lines ran illegal online betting operations across India.

According to investigators, both Raina and Dhawan knowingly entered endorsement contracts with foreign entities connected to these betting platforms. These endorsements were paid for through layered foreign transactions to hide the illegal origin of the money, which the ED alleges is linked to betting profits.

The agency added that 1xBet used surrogate advertising through social media, online videos, and print media to reach Indian users without any legal permission to operate in the country. The money trail shows payments were moved through intermediaries abroad to hide the real source. The ED's probe has also found that more than 6,000 mule bank accounts were used to collect money from Indian users. These funds were then pushed through several payment gateways without completing proper KYC.

# RCB names Malolan head coach for WPL

**BENGALURU**

Royal Challengers Bengaluru have appointed former Tamil Nadu spinner Malolan Rangarajan as the head coach of their women's team ahead of the fourth Women's Premier League season next year. He replaces Luke Williams, who was head coach in 2024, after first serving as assistant coach. Rangarajan has been part of the RCB system for six years and has worked across several roles during this time. He also contributed to the growth of the RCB Men's team, working closely with big names like Dinesh Karthik, Sanjay Bangar, Mike Hesson, Simon Katich and Andy Flower. RCB said on their official X handle that his long involvement makes him the right choice to now lead the women's unit.

Rangarajan said he is excited to begin this new challenge, and thanked Luke Williams for the work he did that helped RCB lift their first WPL title in 2024. He said the coming mega auction will allow the franchise to shape the next phase of the squad, while also keeping in mind the core group for retentions. He added that he has a strong working relationship with Captain Smriti Mandhana and the support staff, built over the last three years, and that gives him confidence to aim for more success.

Smriti Mandhana congratulated him, saying she enjoys cricketing conversations with him and praised his positive influence on the group. RCB COO Rajesh Menon said his promotion is a natural step because he understands the culture and style of play the club wants. The next WPL is scheduled one month earlier than usual in 2026 as India and Sri Lanka will jointly host the men's T20 World Cup in the February-March window.

# Village pacer becomes World Cup heroine

**NEW DELHI**

India's young fast bowler Kranti Goud says her Women's World Cup win has changed how her small Madhya Pradesh village looks at her. The 22 year old took nine wickets at an average of 18.55 in the tournament, including a match winning three wicket spell against Pakistan. She said she had once not even known that a women's cricket team existed, and first learned the game by returning balls to boys playing near her house. Later, when she filled in as an extra player, she bowled pace by copying their actions. Her career took off after local official Rajiv Bilthre saw her speed and invited her to his academy.

# Smart Batting and Tactical Bowling Help India Take 2-1 Lead Over Australia

**CARRARA**

India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav credited smart batting and adaptive bowling as the keys to India's 48-run victory over Australia in the fourth T20 at Carrara, giving India a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Axar Patel and Shivam Dube played pivotal roles as India defended a modest total of 168. While Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma provided a solid start, Suryakumar said the team's approach was "very smart" given the sub-200 target.

Defending the total, the bowlers executed a disciplined plan, with all contributing to the wickets. Dube (2/20) and Washington Sundar (3/3) shared five wickets, putting Australia under pressure and ensuring India stayed ahead.

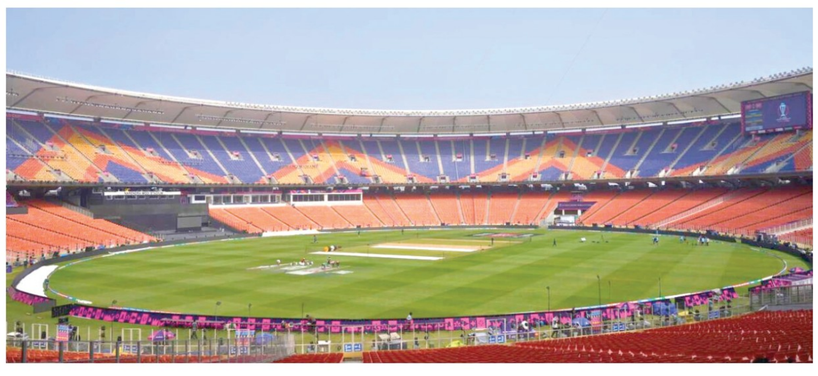
"Always good to have bowlers give you two to three overs. People chipping in and bailing their side is great," Suryakumar added.

Axar Patel, named Player of the Match, highlighted the importance of reading the pitch before batting at No. 7 and exploiting good lengths while bowling. "I was thinking what the batter's strength was. If they were looking to hit me down the ground, I focused on hitting the good length," he said.

Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh acknowledged India's all-round performance, calling it a "world-class" effort while noting that Australia fielded a slightly rotated squad ahead of the upcoming Ashes series.

**NEW DELHI**

## Ahmedabad set to host 2026 T20 World Cup final



Ahmedabad has been shortlisted to host the final of the 2026 ICC T20 World Cup, with the BCCI picking five major Indian venues — Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai — for the tournament. The ICC is expected to announce the full schedule next week. The event will be played in February-March and will be co-hosted by Sri Lanka, which will serve as a neutral venue for Pakistan, as per the agreement between the ICC, BCCI and PCB. Three Sri Lankan venues, including Colombo, will stage matches. India, the defending champions, are expected to draw huge crowds across Tier-1 cities. In case Pakistan reach the final, the title match will be shifted to Sri Lanka.

**SYDNEY**

## Cummins targets Brisbane return after back injury rules him out of Perth

Australia captain Pat Cummins said he is targeting a return for the second Ashes Test in Brisbane after being ruled out of the opening match in Perth due to a lower back injury. Cummins, who last played in July, said he has started bowling overs again, but still on a shorter run-up. Steve Smith will captain in Perth on November 21, with Scott Boland likely to slot in. Cummins said his recovery plan is built around the Brisbane day-night Test from December 4, and he will have a clearer idea once he bowls more in Perth. He remains positive but cautious, given short gaps between Tests later in the series. Australia have named a pace-heavy squad with Hazlewood, Starc, Boland, Abbott and Doggett.

**KARACHI**

## Hermann Replaces Injured Dewald Brevis In SA Squad For Pak ODIs

Cricket South Africa has called up wicketkeeper batter Rubin Hermann for the rest of the ODI series against Pakistan, after young star Dewald Brevis hurt his shoulder while fielding during the third T20I in Lahore. Brevis will not return to play in the ODIs now, but he will continue to stay with the touring group to get ready for the two Test matches against India, which start on November 14. Hermann was already in India, because he was playing for the South Africa A side, which is currently involved in two unofficial Tests against India A. He also scored a half century in the first match in Bengaluru, though the home side won that match by three wickets. Hermann is 28.

# HOCKEY TROPHY TOUR TO TWENTY CITIES

## Hockey India said the centenary Trophy Tour will connect fans nationwide before the biggest ever Junior World Cup

**NEW DELHI**

Hockey India has announced a national Trophy Tour ahead of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup 2025, which will take place in Tamil Nadu from November 28 to December 10. The World Cup trophy will travel through twenty cities across India, so fans in different parts of the country can see it from close range. This plan has been made to build a strong wave of excitement before the global event begins.

The Trophy Tour will begin on November 7 during Hockey India's 100 year celebrations at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya will attend the launch. Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin will be present. FIH President Dato Tayyab Ikram, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey, Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh and Treasurer Sekar J Manoharan will also attend.

Hockey India officials say the Trophy Tour is to involve people everywhere and to make them feel like they are part of the World Cup. If fans in every corner of India feel connected and proud, that feeling will add more energy to the players when they begin their campaign in Chennai. They also said this World Cup will be the largest Junior World Cup, with twenty four teams taking part.

Bhola Nath Singh said the Trophy Tour will stretch from Jammu and Kashmir in the North to Kerala in the South. The Trophy Tour is special as it is taking place during the centenary celebrations of Hockey India.

# India to host 2026 Arm-wrestling World Championships

**MUMBAI**

**India has quickly become a global hub for armwrestling, driven by the Pro Panja League and successful international events, with WAF President praising India's rapid rise and athlete-focused leadership**

India has taken another big step in world sports. The People's ArmWrestling Federation of India (PAFI) on Thursday confirmed that India will host the 2026 World Arm-Wrestling Championships next October. The announcement is being called a historic moment for the sport in the country, and a major honour for Indian armwrestling.

According to PAFI, around 1,500 to 2,000 athletes from nearly 75 different countries are expected to take part. They will compete across different categories over several days. Officials said this will be one of the biggest armwrestling gatherings the world has ever seen.

This is also the third major international armwrestling event coming to India in quick time. Mumbai hosted the Asian ArmWrestling Cup in October 2024. New Delhi hosted the Asian ArmWrestling Championship in 2025. That run of major events helped India prove that it has the talent and organisation to handle sport at the highest level.

Armwrestling has gained huge popularity in India mainly because of the Pro Panja League, which has now become the world's biggest professional armwrestling league. The league has high production value, big viewership, and has taken the sport to cities and small towns.

World Armwrestling Federation President Assen Hadjitodorov said India's rise in the sport has been extraordinary in just five years. He praised the efforts of PAFI President Preeti Jhangiani, who has pushed athlete welfare and global standards. He said the world will not only see tough contests in India, but also feel Indian hospitality.

PAFI President Preeti Jhangiani said hosting the World Championships is a matter of national pride. Pro Panja League co-founder Parvinn Dabass said it will motivate more youth to take up the sport.

# Vani Kapoor takes one shot lead

**GURGAON**

Vani Kapoor carded a second straight round of 68 to take a one-shot lead in the 14th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour on Thursday. The event is being played at the Classic Golf and Country Club. With this, Vani is now four-under 136 after two rounds. She is one shot ahead of Jasmine Shekar, who stands at three-under 137 on the par-70 course.

Vani, a winner in 2025, had a very steady round as she hit two birdies and parred all other holes. She birdied the par-3 13th and then the par-5 14th. After that, she made four more pars and closed another round of 68, putting herself in a strong position to fight for her fifth title of the year.

Jasmine was also solid but made a bogey on the par-5 eighth. She balanced that with three birdies on the third, 16th and 17th holes. Seher Atwal (70-68) moved to third at two-under 138. Ridhima Dilawari (71-68), Sneha Singh (68-71) and Shagun Narain (68-71) were tied for fourth at one-under 139.

Ridhima started with eight pars and then birdied the ninth. She added birdies on the 14th and 17th but dropped shots on the 12th and 16th to finish at 69. Shagun made all four of her birdies on the back nine. Amandeep Drall (72-68) was sixth as she birdied all three par-5s.

# Rajasthan United's Super Cup campaign ends with late draw

**BAMBOLIM**

Rajasthan United FC's impressive run in the AIFF Super Cup 2025-26 ended after a dramatic 2-2 draw against Sporting Club Delhi at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim on Thursday. Despite leading 2-0 at half-time, Rajasthan conceded deep into stoppage time, which eventually eliminated them from the competition.

Rajasthan made a strong start. Pedro Astray headed in the opening goal in the 22nd minute from a corner, before Robinson Blandón doubled the lead in the 35th minute with a neat finish from close range.

The momentum shifted after the break as Sporting Club Delhi returned with much greater intent. Sourav pulled one back in the 61st minute after getting on the end of a through ball and finishing confidently past the keeper.

With Rajasthan just seconds away from a crucial win, Sporting Club Delhi stunned them with a dramatic equaliser in the 90+4th minute. Alan Saji controlled a high ball on his chest before calmly placing his finish into the net, breaking Rajasthan's resistance.

The draw leaves Rajasthan with four points in Group D and out of semifinal contention. A win would have kept them alive in the race.

Even though their journey ends, Rajasthan United earned praise for their spirited football throughout the tournament, which included a famous 1-0 victory over Mumbai City FC, a narrow defeat against Kerala Blasters, followed by Thursday's battling draw. Sporting Club Delhi, meanwhile, finish their debut Super Cup campaign with a point and plenty of promise.

# Sheetal Devi joins India's able-bodied archery team

**MUMBAI**

Star para-archer Sheetal Devi, the world compound champion born without arms, has made history by qualifying for India's able-bodied junior team for the upcoming Asia Cup Stage 3 in Jeddah. At just 18, the Kishtwar-born archer becomes one of the first para-athletes to earn a spot in an able-bodied international competition. Expressing her excitement, Sheetal shared on social media, "When I started competing, I had a small dream – to one day compete alongside the able-bodied. I didn't make it at first, but I kept going, learning from every setback. Today, that dream is one step closer."

Sheetal, who previously won bronze in the mixed team compound event at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, drew inspiration from Turkey's Paralympic champion Oznur Cure Girdi, who also competes in able-bodied events.

At the four-day national selection trials in Sonipat, she competed against over 60 able-bodied archers, scoring 703 points in the qualification rounds (352 and 351 in the first and second rounds) – matching the top qualifier Tejal Salve.

# Diksha Dagar leads Indians after first round at Aramco China Open

**SHENZHEN**

Golfer Diksha Dagar, returning from a break following the Indian Open, carded a 1-under 72 to be the best-placed Indian after the first round of the Aramco China Open here on Thursday, tied at 42nd position. Aditi Ashok was the next best Indian, shooting an even-par 73 to be T-57, while Tvesa Malik and Avani Prashanth finished T-75 with 1-over 74.

Sweden's Linn Grant leads the field by one stroke after a bogey-free 6-under 67. A trio comprising Alice Hewson of England, Aunchisa Utama of Thailand, and Laura Fuenfstueck of Germany share second place.

Dagar's round included four birdies and three bogeys, with bogeys on the second, 10th, and 18th holes, and birdies on the sixth, seventh, 11th, and 13th holes. She made a strong start with three consecutive birdies from the first to third holes, but a double bogey on the 18th affected her final score. Ashok began with a birdie, had a bogey on the fifth, and back-nine challenges included a double bogey on 17 before ending at even-par.

# Harsh Malhotra inaugurates Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025 in East Delhi

**NEW DELHI**

Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road, Transport & Highways Harsh Malhotra on Thursday inaugurated the Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025 (East Delhi) at the East Vinod Nagar Sports Complex.

The initiative, according to organisers, is aimed at promoting sporting culture and physical fitness at the grassroots level, while also creating a platform to identify genuine talent from local neighbourhoods.

Vijender Dhama, District President of BJP Mayur Vihar Zila, Patparganj MLA Ravinder Singh Negi and other officials were present at the event.

Addressing the gathering, Malhotra said the Mahotsav aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat', and underlined the importance of fitness and sports participation for all age groups. He praised the energetic participation of the youth and said their enthusiasm reflects the nation's evolving sporting spirit.

Quoting the "5 S's of sports" — Speed, Stamina, Skill, Strength and Spirit — Malhotra said spirit was the most crucial element that drives athletes to achieve excellence. He also referred to the newly introduced Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 policy, aimed at transforming India's sports ecosystem.

The Mahotsav will have 11 competitions across athletics, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, wrestling, football and other disciplines.

**KOLKATA**

# Lothar Matthaus visit to boost Bengal Super League

German football legend Lothar Matthaus, 1990 World Cup-winning captain, will visit Kolkata on November 6 as ambassador of the Bengal Super League (BSL). Ahead of the league's first season in December, his visit aims to boost visibility, fan interest, and inspire young footballers. Matthaus will interact with players, coaches, and officials, promoting professional mentorship and international exposure. BSL, licensed by the Indian Football Association, features franchise teams from districts like Sundarban, Burdwan, Bolpur, North Bengal, and Bidhannagar, with matches at four venues.

**LONDON**

# English clubs' financial might driving Champions League dominance

English clubs are enjoying a strong start in this season's Champions League, with all six Premier League sides—Arsenal, Manchester City, Liverpool, Newcastle, Tottenham, and Chelsea—off to convincing group-stage performances. Five teams recorded wins this week, highlighting the league's depth and financial strength. Arsenal have impressed with one of the competition's best defenses, while City and Liverpool have been sharp and clinical. Newcastle, Spurs, and Chelsea show growing consistency. Analysts credit record spending, extensive scouting, and deep squads for their edge. Yet, history warns that early group-stage success does not ensure Champions League triumph, as knockout rounds often bring surprises.

**JAMMU**

# 2nd Jammu & KashmirK Masters Games declared open at M A Stadium

The 2nd Jammu & Kashmir Masters Games kicked off with vibrant enthusiasm at M A Stadium on Wednesday. Inaugurated by DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma, the event is organised by the JKMGA, affiliated with the Super Masters Games and Sports Federation (India), to encourage veterans to continue sporting beyond peak years. The opening featured a march past of over 400 athletes and 70 officials, including former national and international sportspersons. Guest dignitaries included Ranjit Singh Sambyal and Capt Murti Gupta. The five-day meet features diverse sports such as athletics, handball, kho-kho, table tennis, powerlifting, yoga, kabaddi, and more, promoting fitness, discipline, and social bonding.

# Rajini-Kamal to team up for 'Thalaivar 173'

In a landmark announcement for Indian cinema, superstar Rajinikanth and Ulaganayagan Kamal Haasan are joining forces for Thalaivar 173, to be directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sundar C.

The mega project will be produced under Kamal Haasan's prestigious banner, Raaj Kamal Films International, marking an extraordinary collaboration between two of Tamil cinema's biggest legends.

The film is being celebrated as a symbol of friendship and artistic partnership, honouring five decades of camaraderie between Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. It is slated for a grand Pongal 2027 release through Red Giant Movies.

Rajinikanth, who was last seen in Lokesh Kanagaraj's Coolie, played Deva, a dock-worker-turned-rebel fighting a powerful smuggling syndicate. The action-packed drama also featured Nagarjuna, Sathyaraj, Soubin Shahir, and Shruti Haasan in key roles, earning appreciation for Rajinikanth's powerful performance and screen charisma.

Meanwhile, Kamal Haasan, who recently impressed audiences in Thug Life, takes on the role of producer for Thalaivar 173. His creative vision and cinematic expertise are expected to add depth and grandeur to the project.

Fans across the nation are eagerly awaiting this historic collaboration, which promises to combine Rajinikanth's unmatched mass appeal with Kamal Haasan's artistic brilliance. With Sundar C at the helm, Thalaivar 173 is expected to be a visual spectacle and one of the most anticipated films in recent Tamil cinema history.

# '120 Bahadur'
## Yash to unveil Akhtar's war epic trailer

Kannada superstar Yash will unveil the trailer of Farhan Akhtar's much-awaited war film '120 Bahadur' on Thursday. The trailer launch is scheduled for 2:07 pm. Directed by Razneesh Razy Ghai, the movie is inspired by the Battle of Rezang La (1962), a defining chapter in Indian military history.

The film narrates the heroic story of 120 soldiers from the 13 Kumaon Regiment who bravely fought against over 3,000 Chinese troops during the war. Farhan Akhtar plays the role of Major Shaitan Singh Bhati, Param Vir Chakra awardee, who led his men with courage and sacrifice. The film is produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, and Amit Chandrra, and is set to release in theatres on November 21, 2025.

Meanwhile, Yash, who gained global fame through the KGF series, is gearing up for his next big project Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. The film will hit theatres on March 19, 2026, coinciding with major festivals like Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, and Eid, ensuring a grand festive release.

Toxic is jointly produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film has been shot simultaneously in English and Kannada, and will release in multiple Indian languages. Yash is also part of Nitesh Tiwari's upcoming mythological project Ramayana, co-starring Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi.

# Keerthy Suresh, Antony Pepe join forces for 'Thottam'

The much-anticipated first look of 'Thottam' has finally been unveiled, creating excitement among Malayalam cinema fans. The film brings together Keerthy Suresh and Antony Varghese Pepe in a powerful new collaboration, promising a gripping blend of action and adventure. Directed by Rishi Sivakumar, Thottam is set to go on floors in early 2026.

The film's poster, carrying the tagline Beyond orders. Beyond borders. Unveiling the untamed land, offers a glimpse into its raw and intense world. Both Keerthy and Antony shared the poster on Instagram, sparking wide fan reactions and speculation about their on-screen chemistry.

Director Rishi Sivakumar, best known for his strong storytelling, is expected to combine rugged action sequences with deep emotional undertones, setting the stage for a grand theatrical experience next year.

The film's technical crew includes George C. Williams as cinematographer, Chaman Chacko as editor, and Harshavardhan Rameshwar handling music and background score. Action choreographer Mohammed Irrfan, who has worked on international hits like The Night Comes for Us and Headshot, adds a global touch to the project.

With a stellar cast and striking visuals, Thottam is already one of the most awaited Malayalam films of 2026.

# Bhargava Krishna for Tollywood

One of the successful films of this year, 'Om Shivam', made a name for hero Bhargava Krishna. He is returning to the track of popularity with his acting and action in his first attempt. The film has been dubbed into another language and is making a splash there too. His next film, '19' directed by Akul N, is releasing in December.

He has appeared as a software engineer in a horror and suspense story. It is hoped that the audience will like it as every situation is full of curiosity. Similarly, Eshwar Polanki, who directed 'Arjuna Sanyasi', is helming the action cut for the untitled film, and 70 percent of the shooting has already been completed.

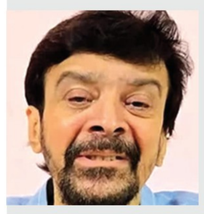
Meanwhile, Hyderabad producers have set their sights on him and are ready to make a film. One stage of talks have been fruitful and the shooting will begin in March. The rest of the information about the banner, director, heroine and other details will be announced in the coming days.

Bhargava Krishna has said that he will be celebrating his birthday in November and will give an update on his new film on that day. It is a matter of pride for Kannadigas that he is joining the ranks of commercial heroes from Chandanavan who are getting opportunities elsewhere.

## OBITUARY

### KGF actor Harish Rai dies

Popular Kannada actor Harish Rai, fondly known as KGF Chacha, passed away on Thursday at the age of 55. He had been battling thyroid cancer and was undergoing treatment at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru. Despite medical efforts, he breathed his last around 11 am.



Rai, known for his strong screen presence in supporting and character roles, was widely recognized for his performances in Om and the KGF series.

His portrayal of Chacha in KGF earned him immense popularity among fans. He is survived by his wife and two children.

The actor had earlier opened up about his struggle with the high cost of cancer treatment. He revealed that a single injection for his therapy cost ₹3.55 lakh, with doctors prescribing three per cycle over 63 days.

### Travel influencer Anunay's death shocks fans

Noted travel influencer and photographer Anunay Sood, admired for his breathtaking visuals and global travel stories, has passed away at the age of 32. His family confirmed the news through an emotional post on his official Instagram account on Thursday morning.

The post did not disclose the cause of death.

However, Sood's recent social media updates indicated that he was in Las Vegas at the time of his passing. It is with deep sadness that we share the news of our beloved Anunay Sood's passing, the family stated. They also requested privacy and urged people to avoid gathering near personal property, asking followers to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

Based in Dubai, Sood had built a massive online following — over 1.4 million on Instagram and 3.8 lakh subscribers on YouTube. His stunning reels, vlogs, and travel photography inspired countless followers.

# Mani Ratnam, Vijay Sethupathi reunite for romantic drama

Ace filmmaker Mani Ratnam is all set to collaborate once again with actor Vijay Sethupathi for a soulful romantic drama. This marks their second partnership after the 2018 multi-starrer hit Chekka Chivantha Vaanam. The film will also feature Rukmini Vasanth as the female lead, bringing her back alongside Sethupathi after their earlier film Ace.

The project will be a soft love story exploring deep human emotions and relationships, presented in Mani Ratnam's signature style. The director is expected to reunite with his trusted crew — cinematographer Ravi Varman and music maestro A.R. Rahman — both of whom have worked with him on several acclaimed films.

Rukmini Vasanth, who reportedly played a key role in the casting process, is said to be thrilled about this opportunity. Fans believe this collaboration could mark a major turning point in her career, as Mani Ratnam is known for bringing out the emotional depth in his actors.

This announcement has generated significant excitement in the film industry, especially after Mani Ratnam's recent film Thug Life, which starred Kamal Haasan, Silambarasan, and Trisha. Although it received mixed reviews, critics praised its visuals and performances.

Meanwhile, Vijay Sethupathi is keeping busy, having also signed an action film with director Siruthai Siva. With back-to-back projects in romance and action, the versatile actor is set to showcase his range once again on the big screen.

# 'Premam Madhuram' trailer out

The trailer and song launch ceremony of the film 'Premam Madhuram' prepared by newcomers, was held at Sri Renukamba Studio in a grand manner. It was produced by Aragonda Shekhar Reddy under Ruby Creations. Gandhi.A.B has written the story, directed the film and acted as Hero.

The heroines Aishwarya Dinesh and Anusha Jain shared their experiences of shooting. The cast includes Sihikahichandru, Rajeshwari, Lapangraja, Anoop Agastya, etc. Vishal Alapa has composed the music for three songs. Cinematography is by Manjunath Hegde, editing is by Sanjeev Jagirdar, background sound is by Sriman Gandharva, dance is by Manish Keshav, Lokesh Arjun, Rankumar.D, Gautam Selvaraj.

Speaking on the occasion, the director said, there are situations where cinema connects with the current youth. Love is either a success or a failure in everyone's life. This applies to all of them. I have nothing new to say. Some aspects that I experienced and saw in school and college have been brought to film form. It shows what love is like in three stages. It will provide complete entertainment to the audience who comes with money. Gandhi. A.B. replied to the media's question that I panicked during the kissing scene.

My hometown is Tirupati, I lived in Bangalore. I made the film to give life to the debt here and at least 10 boys. As a true fan of Chiranjeevi, I have acted according to his words. That is, before you give your word, you are the master. After you give it, you are the slave. I have followed the megastar's saying that it is appropriate to act accordingly. These boys have achieved something. I request you all to bless them, said Shekher Reddy. Bagur Talkies is planning to release it this month.

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